**■ SIM/Q4**
Portraits of the artist as athlete—direct from the finish line

**■ METRO/A19**
'One true light' shines from 360,000 bulbs at Latter Day Saints temple

**■ WORLD/A8**
Ecuadorean woman at 116 is world's oldest person

**■ NEWS/A2**
GMA leaves today to attend summits in Kuala Lumpur

## Filipina makes ultimate sacrifice for unborn son

LONDON—CALL IT MATERNAL INSTINCT.

A British-based Filipino mother who found out she had cancer after becoming pregnant sacrificed her life for her unborn baby by refusing an abortion and chemotherapy, a British newspaper reported Friday.

Devout Catholic Bernadette Mimura—known as Milai—shunned the potentially

FILIPINA/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## Boo! Ho! Ho! Santa sacked for being too nice to kids

LONDON—A BRITISH Santa Claus got the sack and was booted out of his grotto by bouncers for spending too long chatting to children, a newspaper reported Saturday.

It was more "Go! Go!

BOO!/A6

BIKTIMA RIN AKO NG CHRISTMAS RUSH! HU-HU-HU!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday, December 11, 2005 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 3 P18
website: www.inq7.net

# AFP: No talk on Garci tap

## After 6 months of evading issue and blanket denials, silence

By Fe Zamora, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY stood its ground, refusing to say who had ordered the wiretap of President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged phone conversations with ex-Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"Let it stay as a big question mark," a senior officer said.

Malacañang seemed to profess the least interest in unraveling the mystery of the brains behind the wiretap, saying that Ms Arroyo had "more important" state matters to attend to, and that the "larger issue" was that she won the election.

This contrasted sharply with its indignation in June when the scandal broke out. It had condemned the alleged wiretapping as despicable and warned that if the President could be bugged, anyone could suffer the same fate.

The senior Armed Forces officer said there was no need to rock the boat.

"Why shake it?" he said. "*Kami ang mag-imbestiga, baka kami pa ang masunog* (If we investigate, we might get burned)."

The officer asked that his name be withheld on the grounds that any probe of the controversy might affect his unit.

The officer spoke to the INQUIRER following the demand of some senators the AFP identify the "brains" behind the "Hello Garci" tapes containing potentially damning phone conversations supposedly between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano on rigging the results of the 2004 presidential election.

Even under threat of a cut in its budget, the Isafp still refused to answer allegations of wiretapping.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Joker Arroyo have aired the threat of a budget cut and of bypassing the confirmation of Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

"That's their prerogative, but it will be the public who will suffer. Our national security will suffer," AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison said.

He insisted the AFP had nothing to say on the lawmakers' question of who had

AFP/A17

ALEX VAN HAGEN

**MAY THEIR TRIBE INCREASE**
Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (right) marries Audrey Tan (second from left) in tribal wedding rites that last 4 hours, on Dec. 3, at the municipal hall of Maramag, Bukidnon, witnessed by 25,000 guests from the 7 tribes of Bukidnon, namely, the Bukidnon headed by Datu Lorenzo Dinlayan Jr.; Higa-onon, Datu Apolonio Timbangan; Tigwahanen, Bae Genelinda Sulade; Talaandig, Datu Adolino Saway; Matigsalog, Datu Moreno Tumindog; Umayamnen, Datu Benjamin Omao, and Manobo, Datu Mayda Pandian. Guest of honor was Mrs. Noli de Castro.

## Rough sailing for RP fishermen in WTO HK meet

By Blanche S. Rivera

WITH A ROW BOAT, DRIFT NET AND hook and line, Leo Sumalpong hauls in five to 10 kilograms of catch after six hours at sea. On a good day this can fetch him P300 at the Tagbilaran market in Bohol. But if imported *galunggong* (round scad) and tuna are to flood the city market, he could go home with just enough to buy dinner.

This Filipino fisherman's unpredictable life could be radically, even tragically, altered in the next few days.

If rich countries are able to pull off a proposal to further open the markets of less developed nations to their non-agricultural products like fish, the Philippines' 1.8 million small fishermen—and Southeast Asia's 12 million—could drown in a sea of imports from the likes of China and Japan.

This so-called non-agriculture market access (Nama) will be one of the hottest issues—the others are agriculture and services—on the table at the sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization unfolding next week at the Wan Chai Convention Center in Hong Kong.

From Dec. 13 to 18, the WTO minis-

ROUGH/A18

MADAMI CHAIR

## She's fair, firm, strict, 'like a woman'

By Philip C. Tubeza
*in Manila*
and Joselle Badilla
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

"LIKE A WOMAN" WAS HOW NORTH Cotabato Rep. Emmylou "Lala" Taliño-Santos handled the resumed House inquiry into the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Lawmakers, whether from the administration or the opposition, agreed that Santos kept Wednesday's hearing going smoothly despite the heated exchanges between the contending camps.

"She handled it very well," said Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, whom Santos had replaced. "She's showing her independence, and she wants to be fair and impartial."

Said House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles: "She was strong, firm, decisive and very focused. She was fair and square and strict, like a woman."

Santos replaced Remulla on Nov. 23 as chair of the House committee on public information, the lead panel of the "Hello Garci" inquiry, as a result of the "purging" of the committee chairs who had voted to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I think she is very good," said South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio, House deputy minority leader. "She conducted the hearing very well and there were not so many open disagreements. She was on top of the situation."

Santos, 33, is mother to 8-year-old Maria Alana Samantha.

But she was widowed young.

She married Alan Santos, an engineer, in 1996. Alan died last year due to complications from injuries suffered in an earlier vehicular accident.

Ex-Army Sgt. Rogelio T. Talino, her father, is the mayor of Carmen, North Cotabato,

SHE'S FAIR/A6

**HOW TO HANDLE MEN** on a collision course: 33-year-old widow Rep. Emmylou Talino-Santos from North Cotabato shows how as the lead chair of the House committees in the "Hello Garci" probe. At right is Santos' predecessor, Rep. Gilbert Remulla.

## Son of Red purge victims learns parents killed by comrades

By Norman Bordadora

JESS MARLOWE LIBRE, A COMPUTER education teacher, said he was 5 years old when he last saw his parents. That was in 1980 when they left him in the care of an aunt in Cebu City.

"I was crying because I wanted to go with them. *Tatay* (Papa) told me to stop because he said they'd come back for me in three days. They never did," Libre told the INQUIRER.

His parents, Jess Libre and Nida Carera-Libre, were among those whose bodies were exhumed last month from burial sites in Cebu's hinterlands, where Communist Party of the Philippines cadres were allegedly killed in an internal purge of suspected government spies.

The Libres were labor organizers in Cebu and were reportedly among those killed when the CPP's Kampanyang Ahos purge of "deep-penetration agents" spilled over from Mindanao to the Visayas.

"I was brought up thinking that my parents were killed by the military ... It hurts to know after 20 years that they were killed by their own comrades," said the young Libre, or Weng to those close to him.

Weng is now 30 years old and teaches in Davao City. He is a member of the Peace Advocates for Truth, Justice and Healing, or PATH, which does research on the victims of party purges in the 1980's, particularly the whereabouts of the remains of those killed.

"I want to know who killed my parents and likewise help those who lost their loved ones (under similar circumstances)," Weng said.

PATH, a human rights group, on Friday identified those who carried out

SON/A17

Second FRONT PAGE

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon and Visayas will have monsoon rains becoming frequent rains which may trigger flashfloods and landslides over Quezon, Bicol region and Visayas. Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/12/11/05 SOURCE PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# RP urges stronger Asean-China pact

By Volt D. Contreras

THE PHILIPPINES CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China to enter into a more "legally binding" agreement to ensure peace and stability in the South China Sea.

Addressing the Asean ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo on Friday urged Asean and China to "continue moving forward" after their historic pledge three years ago to adhere to peaceful conflict-resolution and promote cooperation in the rich and strategic waters.

Romulo was referring to the Asean-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties signed in Cambodia in November 2002, calling it "a landmark political document that captured the commitment of Asean and China to transform what has traditionally been thought of as 'dangerous grounds' into a forum for cooperation."

The declaration called on nations with long-standing territorial disputes to exercise "self-restraint" and avoid activities that may raise tensions. It urged them, for example, to keep off presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, etc., and to notify the other of any impending military exercises in the area.

The Spratlys group of islands, believed to be rich in oil and marine resources, is among the disputed areas in the South China Sea. It is being claimed, in whole or in part, by the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Brunei, Taiwan and Malaysia.

The declaration also stated that, pending a durable resolution of territorial claims, concerned states could hold joint activities in marine environmental protection and research, navigational safety and communications, search and rescue, and battling transnational crimes like armed robbery at sea, piracy, and drugs or arms trafficking.

"This declaration is a powerful symbol of our collective capacity to face even the toughest of challenges," the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement quoting Romulo.

But the Phnom Penh signing was "only an intermediate step towards the establishment of a regional code of conduct for the parties with interests in the South China Sea," he said.

"While we have prevented conflict and built cooperation in the South China Sea, much remains to be done and we must sustain our efforts," Romulo told his counterparts, adding:

"The Philippines continues to maintain its hopes that with the declaration as a key building block, we will soon be working towards a legally binding code of conduct on the South China Sea."

"I urge all of us here to continue moving forward, guided by the realization that the success of our collective actions on the issue of the South China Sea are among the most important and durable contributions we can make to ensure the continued peace and stability of our region," he said.

The Philippine official recalled that it was China's own paramount leader, the late Deng Xiao Ping, who called for the transformation of the South China Sea "from a sea of conflict to an area of cooperation" as early as 1987.

During the meeting, Romulo reiterated Manila's support for the adoption of the Asean Charter, noting how the 11-nation bloc has been increasingly facing complex interrelated issues.

# GMA faces full plate in Malaysia

By Christine O. Avendaño

KUALA LUMPUR (VIA PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo would be in a mode to continue battling terrorism, avian flu and high fuel costs when she joins other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and East Asia for meetings in the Malaysian capital through next week.

With a lean delegation, the President is due to arrive here today to attend the 11th Asean summit and several other summits, including one among countries in East Asia.

Aside from Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who are both here, the President's delegation will include Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza and Davao Oriental Rep. Corazon Malanyaon, among others.

At the Asean and East Asian summits, Ms Arroyo intends to press for broader cooperation in the three major battles threatening the region: Terrorism, high oil prices and the avian flu virus, Romulo said yesterday.

"The President will certainly take up the issue of terrorism and the issue of energy security, among others," Romulo told reporters at a news briefing here. He said Ms Arroyo was "particularly interested" in forging greater cooperation on energy security.

"Although the price of oil has dipped, we have to look at alternative sources, energy efficiency, energy conservation because this will be with us for some time," Romulo said.

Forget about the alleged cheating in last week's Southeast Asian Games, he said, as Ms Arroyo had no scheduled meeting with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Besides, the Thais had clarified that Thaksin was misquoted and had not made such an allegation.

The East Asia summit was expected to come out with a declaration of cooperation in the fight against the avian flu virus that has affected several countries.

The President's first day here will be hectic.

Upon her arrival at 11:40 a.m., Ms Arroyo will head to the Mandarin Oriental hotel for a working lunch with Philipine delegation officials.

She will then attend the 2nd BIMP-Eaga (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines-East Asia Growth Area) summit at the convention center here. Her schedule also showed she was set to hold a bilateral meeting with China.

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## *MILF to protest rights violator tag in UN*

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) will ask the United Nations to investigate why the MILF has been included in the Philippines' list of top human rights violators.

The MILF was reacting to a report by Commission on Human Rights (CHR) regional director Alberto Sipaco Jr. who said the MILF, along with the military and police, received the most number of complaints of human rights abuses.

"Unless there has been a formal investigation, that remains an allegation. We don't have any idea about his (Sipaco) claims. In fact, we are the victims of human rights violations," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

"We have not committed any human rights violations. We are just defending ourselves. If our forces managed to kill somebody, that was part of a political act," he said.

The Philippine government and the MILF are in the midst of peace talks aimed at ending decades of conflict in Mindanao.

Kabalu said the reported human rights violations, particularly among Muslims in Mindanao, must be investigated by an international human rights group, not only by government and nongovernment organizations.

"We will file a protest because we don't see why we should be included in the list of top violators. Our group will make a report and will [ask] the United Nations for [an] investigation," Kabalu said.

On May 2004, a raid by the MILF on Siocon town in Zamboanga del Norte killed at least 34 people, including seven policemen. Some 25 others were wounded and a portion of the town hall was burned down. The MILF claimed responsibility for the attack. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Bill filed cutting GMA power over tariffs

CLAIMING ONLY CONGRESS HAS the power to impose taxes, Rep. Exequiel Javier of Antique has filed a bill that will clip the powers of the President to set tariffs on imports.

The matter of increasing or reducing tariff rates is a policy issue that concerns Congress and "must not be left to unelected bureaucrats who have no accountability to the people," Javier said in an explanatory note attached to House Bill No. 2456 which he authored.

He was referring to members of the Cabinet, such as officials of the National Economic and Development Authority, who usually recommend changes in tariff rates to the President.

The power to set tariff rates lies primarily with Congress. However, a martial law decree issued by President Ferdinand Marcos allows the President to adjust tariffs when Congress is in recess.

Under Javier's bill, the President will be allowed to set tariffs only when Congress is adjourned between two regular sessions. In addition, the bill states that should the President adjust any tariff, the change will take effect only for a year at most. Congress would also have the power to terminate the new tariff rate.

"This bill seeks to restore equilibrium in our government of shared powers. Through this bill, Congress must have the political will to redress the imbalance of power and restore equilibrium in our system of government," Javier said.

Critics said the authority given to the President to set tariff rates when Congress is in recess has been abused, with the executive waiting for Congress to go into recess even within a regular session to make tariff adjustments.

Javier noted that there were 107 executive orders adjusting tariff rates during the Marcos regime, 24 during the term of President Corazon Aquino, 46 during the Ramos administration, and 15 so far under the Arroyo presidency. *Michelle V. Remo*

## Magdalo not turning on one another—lawyer

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DESPITE THEIR "IDEOLOGICAL differences," the breakaway Magdalo group officers vowed not to do anything to jeopardize the case of all the junior officers charged with coup d' etat before a Makati court for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

The lawyer of Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo and 11 other junior Army officers who recently apologized to President Macapagal-Arroyo for a second time, said his clients did not intend to turn state witness against their former comrades in exchange for a deal with the government.

"Although there are ideological differences at this point, we're all working for acquittal," lawyer Hortencio Domingo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"We won't do any [thing] to jeopardize the case of the others. That's not going to happen. We like the defense team to be united in acquitting them all," he said.

Gambala and Maestrecampo were moved out of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) compound in Camp Aguinaldo where they and four other prominent leaders of the Oakwood mutiny had been detained since their failed mutiny.

Gambala and Maestrecampo joined 11 other junior Army officers at Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Domingo denied that Gambala and Maestrecampo were transferred to Fort Bonifacio "due to the threat of physical confrontations" with Marine Captains Nicanor Faeldon and Gary Alejano and Navy Lieutenants Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug who did not sign the latest manifesto of apology.

He claimed it would be easier for their lawyers to consult with all 13 Army officers if they were in one detention place.

"They (Magdalo leaders) remain cordial with each other," Domingo said.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon had told reporters that "Gambala and Maestrecampo have been transferred upon orders of the court probably to avoid physical confrontations among those who are in Isafp."

Domingo denied that Gambala and Maestrecampo had better detention quarters in Fort Bonifacio.

There, Gambala and Maestrecampo share barracks with other officers and enlisted personnel, unlike in the Isafp compound where they had individual detention quarters.

Domingo also denied that concessions were made to the 13 Army officers, "but if ever, they will be equally offered to everyone."

"If their conciliatory approach will produce results, why not?" he said.

# Moody's assured Cha-cha won't slow economy

By Philip C. Tubeza

PRO-ADMINISTRATION LAWMAKERS YESterday allayed the fears of an international credit rating agency that the government's Charter change (Cha-cha) initiative would slow down economic reforms in the country.

In a statement, House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin and Manila Rep. Ernesto Banzai Nieva dismissed the apprehensions of credit rating agency Moody's Investors Services as baseless.

"The comment of Moody's is surprisingly not supportive despite our goal with Charter change of jump-starting the Philippine economy," Salapuddin said.

The lawmakers assured Moody's that the proposed constitutional amendments include the removal of "restrictive economic provisions" in the 1987 Constitution to encourage more foreign investments.

Salapuddin and Nieva also said that changing the Constitution would provide stability to the country's political system and "fast track economic development."

"It will in fact hasten economic reforms to make the country competitive in the global economy, but with safety nets to protect our sovereignty and other national interests. We will not sell the country to the gods of the global market," Salapuddin said.

He pointed out that inflows of foreign capital would quadruple if restrictive economic provisions in the present Constitution were amended to allow the 100 percent ownership of land and businesses by foreign investors.

Nieva said the administration even created a Constitutional Commission to do a comprehensive study on the constitutional provisions that need to be changed or amended.

"We have to be prudent and precise on what to amend in the 1987 Constitution. While Cha-cha has been a delayed undertaking, we cannot afford to overlook the important components that need to be put in or removed from Cha-cha," he said.

Nieva said the House supports Cha-cha because "lawmakers want a change in the political system to veer away from dirty politics and put sustained and increasing focus on the crafting and implementation of viable and rational platforms of governance."

He urged Moody's and other credit rating agencies to refrain from rushing to judgment on the Cha-cha initiative, and instead "offer constructive suggestions to dovetail with the proposed amendments from the Constitutional Commission and other sectors, before all these are considered and debated upon by Congress."

"There will be no stampeding the country into Cha-cha, despite the urgent need for us to be more competitive in the 21st century," he said.

# Con-ass given thumbs down in Negros Occ.

BACOLOD CITY—MILITANT GROUPS YESTERday scored local government officials in Negros Occidental who are in favor of Charter change through a constituent assembly and accused them of falling victim to "patronage politics."

The militant groups were reacting to reports that 23 mayors in the province, in a poll taken at the Provincial Development Council meeting on Wednesday, said they were in favor of making changes to the Constitution through a con-ass while three others said they were for a constitutional convention.

At the provincial board session, also on Wednesday, eight board members said they were for amending the Constitution through a con-con while six were for a con-ass.

Felipe Levy Gelle, Bayan Negros secretary general, said it was unfortunate the mayors made their choices without consulting their constituents.

"Their self-serving interest of entrenching themselves in power by lifting term limits is the reason for their stand," Gelle said. He was referring to a proposal to lift the term limits on elected officials—who would comprise a con-ass.

Sanlakas Negros spokesperson Ariel Guides yesterday said they were not against Charter change *per se* but for doing it through the "most unrepresentative way... via a constituent assembly."

He said a constituent assembly appeared to be a political deal among President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Fidel Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia and those who would benefit from it.

Guides said they doubted the mayors' preference for a con-ass reflected the sentiments of their constituents. "We feel they have fallen victim to the patronage politics ploy of GMA, JDV and FVR," he said. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Gays stage rally against discrimination

By Tina G. Santos

GAY PROTESTERS TOOK TO the streets of Manila yesterday to clamor for an end to discrimination against them.

The protesters, members of the militant Akbayan Gay and Lesbian Collective, called for public support for the immediate passage of the Anti-Discrimination Bill.

The rally, which ended at Plaza Miranda, coincided with the commemoration of International Human Rights Day.

"The bill criminalizes discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders. The lesbian and gay community has suffered enough. We cannot allow the enactment of another bill to take another term," said the group's spokesperson Percival Cendana.

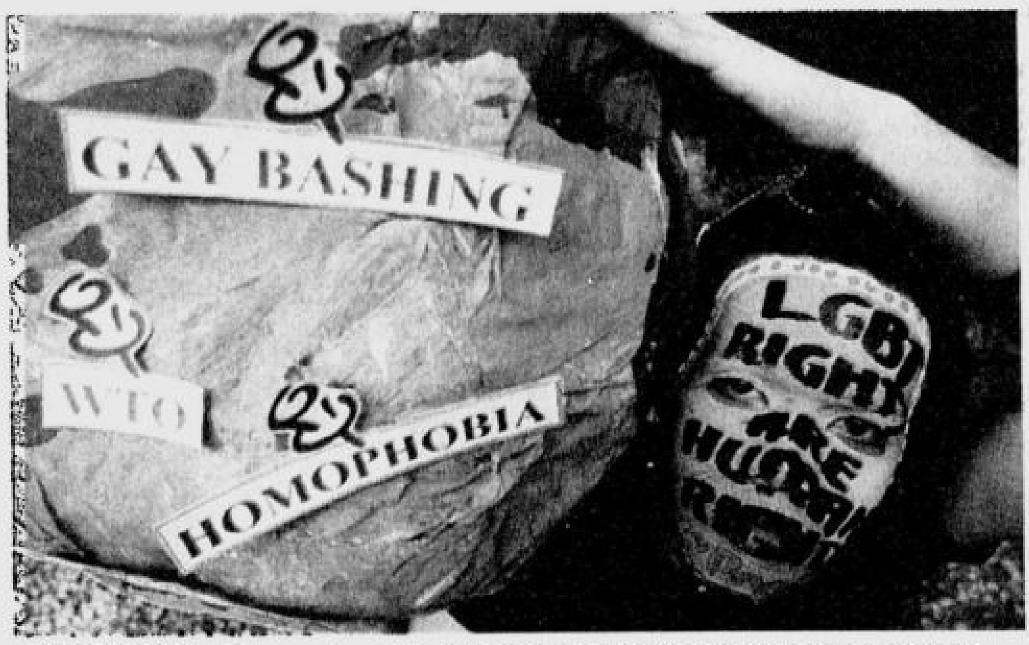
Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, the principal author of the bill, said that if enacted, the bill would prohibit discriminatory policies and practices, especially in employment and education, among others.

Meanwhile, the Gloria Step Down! Movement (GSM) said the Arroyo administration will suffer greater instability if political killings and suppression of truth continued.

The human rights group Karapatan has recorded 150 political killings this year alone.

Dennis Maga, GSM spokesperson, said, "[President Macapagal-] Arroyo's record of human rights violations only reveals her desperation to cling on to power. Arroyo's extreme paranoia can be rooted in her fear of being booted out of the Palace."

Maga said the reappearance of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano was part of orchestrated moves by the administration.


GAY BASHING
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**A PRO-GAY Philippines member carries the world and all its problems during yesterday's rally.**

JOAN BONDOC

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Per DTI-NCR No. 2990, Series of 2005

# Private aid to DepEd totals ₱2.2B

By Alcuin Papa

DUE TO THE MEAGER BUDGET GIVEN to education, the Department of Education (DepEd) has over the years turned to the private sector and local government units for funding assistance.

DepEd officer in charge Fe Hidalgo reported recently that in the last seven years, DepEd has received over P2.2 billion in goodwill money for public schools around the country.

"Since it was instituted by the passage of Republic Act 8525 in 1998, our Adopt-A-School program has provided our schools a means to generate much-needed support from the private sector," Hidalgo said during the program's recognition day held recently at the DepEd Central Office in Pasig.

The program, Hidalgo said, is aimed at augmenting the public schools' meager maintenance, operations and other expenses (MOOE) fund.

Last year, Hidalgo said DepEd raised around P1 billion through its Adopt-A School program to help rehabilitate schools.

One component of the program is the Brigada Eskwela which managed to raise funds to help refurbish 26,034 public elementary and high schools, representing 62 percent of all public schools nationwide.

Around half of the P1 billion came from donations in kind from communities and local governments, such as paint, cement, plywood, hollow blocks and other building materials to refurbish dilapidated schools.

The Sagip Eskwela program raised the other P500 million to rehabilitate some 1,500 school buildings and equipment damaged by typhoons in December last year.

Another component of the Adopt-A-School program, the Library Hub program, established 30 library hubs in different parts of the country this year. Donations for the Library Hub program were also sourced from local government units and private donors.

A Library Hub is a repository of books in a community where schools can borrow boxes of books for students. The Library Hub, Hidalgo explained, is an essential part of the DepEd's "Every Child A Reader" program. The program aims to make all public school children readers by Grade 3.

Hidalgo said they hope to establish 300 more Library Hubs in the next three years in other parts of the country.

"But beyond the material and financial gains we have generated from these worthwhile endeavors, I believe the true value of Adopt-A-School is in the lessons learned from it. The true value of Adopt-A-School is in how well we can teach our children the essence of community and of humanity," Hidalgo said.

The DepEd said recently that its proposed budget of P119 billion for 2006 would not be enough to uplift the quality of education in the country. To make substantial improvements in the quality of education, the DepEd said it needs at least P130 billion a year, growing around 8 percent every year.

Because of the gap, the DepEd has appealed to the private sector as well as local governments and other agencies to help it augment its meager resources.

# Expect more rains the rest of weekend, Pagasa says

THE WEEKEND WILL CONTINUE TO BE WET and dreary as the northwest monsoon continues to affect Luzon and the Visayas while the easterly wave causes the same in Mindanao.

The weather bureau Pagasa warned that the expected monsoon rains over eastern and southern Luzon will be frequent and may trigger flash floods and landslides over Quezon province, the Bicol region and the Visayas.

The rest of Luzon, including Metro Manila, will experience mostly cloudy skies with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms.

Pagasa also issued a gale warning at 5 p.m. yesterday due to the surge of strong winds associated with the northeast monsoon. The winds are expected to continue to affect the seaboards of Luzon and Visayas.

The weather bureau said the eastern seaboard of Luzon and the eastern and central seaboards of the Visayas will experience frequent rains. It added that winds of 37 kph to 74 kph are expected and sea conditions will be rough to very rough with wave heights of 2.2 meters to six meters.

Pagasa said the northern and western seaboards of Luzon and the western seaboards of the Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with rain showers. Winds of 37 kph to 55 kph are expected and sea conditions will be moderate to rough with wave heights of 2.2 meters to 3.5 meters.

"Fishing boats and other small sea craft are advised not to venture out into the sea while bigger sea craft are alerted against moderate to high waves," Pagasa's gale warning said.

Mindanao will likewise experience scattered rain showers and thunderstorm as a result of the easterly wave. *Norman Bordadora*

# 'Bonus is fine, but we need pay increase'

By Leila B. Salaverria

A GROUP OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES would rather get a salary increase than a one-shot Christmas bonus.

Speaking for the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), Ferdinand Gaite said the forthcoming P5,000 cash gift would be a big help this Christmas, but the benefits of a wage hike would last longer.

"The bonus will help but it would go very fast, especially with the increase in prices. What will we do after Christmas? We still need to buy food and basic necessities. What we need are salary adjustments. That is what the government should address," Gaite said in a phone interview.

Aside from the recently implemented expanded value-added tax law that led to a rise in prices, he said the cost of electricity was expected to increase in the coming months.

But the salary of government workers had not increased in four years, he pointed out.

According to Gaite, a government worker in the lowest salary grade gets P5,082 per month before taxes. The amount gets even smaller after the mandatory deductions.

He said the amount was so much less than the P18,000 a month needed for a family of six to survive, as computed by the National Wages and Productivity Commission.

# Psywar, says Joma of raps vs NPA

LUCENA CITY—EXILED COMMUNIST LEADER Jose Ma. Sison said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez were playing a "crazy game of psywar" when they accused the communist New People's Army of being behind the recent wave of terror incidents in Metro Manila.

Sison said Ermita was exaggerating the significance of the strafing incident at the LTA building owned by the family of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, as well as the explosions in different locations in Metro Manila and the bomb scare at the United States Embassy.

He said that except for some broken windows, the LTA building was practically undamaged.

"There was absolutely no damage to the cars. No bomb ever exploded in any embassy premises. And yet Ermita and the highest military officials magnify the false claims beyond all proportion. They are blatantly engaged in a psywar game," said Sison in an e-mail statement from Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Sison noted that Ermita and military officials were quick to blame the NPA despite denials from Communist Party of the Philippines leaders.

"If only to put the blame on the NPA, they cast doubt on the existence of the 'Enlightened Warriors' as an anti-Arroyo group and then insist that there is no anti-Arroyo group within the AFP," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# PARBANGON

## (An Open Letter to the People of the Ravine)

## Antonio Calipjo Go, Academic Supervisor

## Marian School of Quezon City

### The Blue Clouds of Unknowing

I have in my possession 48 preschool textbooks, written by 95 different authors and published by 20 different publishers, that all uniformly teach Filipino school children the same demented notion that **"clouds are blue."** In lesson after moronic lesson, preschoolers between the ages of three and five are instructed by these books to **"color the clouds blue."** (The color asked to be used is not even sky-blue or azure but a dull somber blue the color of bruises, of poison berries, of grief that would not go away.) Is there such a thing as a blue cloud? The answer is YES! Only in the Philippines can you find clouds as blue as me and you, perhaps owing to its inhabitants' unshakeable habit of sadness. Even as we outwardly boast and brag that we live in the land of smiles, we as a people secretly beweep our outcast state and curse our fate. We feed on dreams, on hope, and not much else. In reality, ours is an existence as brief as breath, evanescent as dew, precarious as a cloud of blue.

The making of defective textbooks is a nameless, faceless crime, yet its victims are countless, are legion. Nothing devastates the mind as much as the realization that our children had been taught the wrong lesson in school, that they had learned something they were not supposed to. Yet, all across this topsy-turvy discombobulated land of blue clouds and white skies, that is exactly what is happening. Even as we speak, our school children continue to be subjected to a program of systemic and systematic idiotization by being made, on pain of death, to read, memorize and imbibe the contents of textbooks that teach error upon grievous error. The defective textbook is the creeping evil of Philippine education.

Education is the only viable long-term solution to poverty. The quality of education a child receives early in life is directly related to the opportunities that will open up for him later in life. Substandard textbooks miseducate for life; they are harmful and injurious, wicked and evil. Therefore, the issue of defective textbooks is a great moral issue. Consider this: 48 textbooks, all teaching our children in unison that **"clouds are blue."** Surely, error and ignorance shall follow them all the days of their lives, and they will dwell in the house of darkness forever. No substantial knowledge can be erected upon so bad a foundation as folly.

Here in the Philippines, where sickbooks teach that dodos still exist, clay pots grow and angels are either gay, castrate or impotent (because "they cannot make babies while men can"), where sickbooks with 250 errors are "good" and where sickbooks, teachers and schools conspire to teach errors with impunity, children grow old but not wise. Our foolish beginnings portend our foolish ends. Publishers and authors of substandard textbooks deserve to be punished for causing the ignorant masses to believe and hold as Gospel truth the follies that these books contain in exceeding quantities. Sad thing is : we have crime ; we don't have punishment.

### Worthy of our Trust and Confidence

The Philippine Daily Inquirer editorial of August 27, 2005 states : "The public needs to hear from the National Book Development Board (NBDB) on the progress of its textbook review committee, which is supposed to receive complaints on errors in textbooks used in private schools. The NBDB accepts complaints. The committee then evaluates the book. If the errors are proven, the registration of the publisher will be canceled. He will also be fined P100,000. We have yet to see if the new set-up works." It isn't working, and here's why.

By means of a paid advertisement ("These Are Not Errors") published on June 22, 2005 in the Inquirer, I enumerated some of the 2, 079 errors I discovered in twelve textbooks published by Phoenix Publishing House ---- Simply Science in the Next Century Grades 1 to 6 (written by six teachers of the Ateneo de Manila Grade School) and Harnessing English Arts Today Grades 1 to 6 (written by teachers and administrators of St. Theresa's College of Quezon City). On July 4, I filed a formal complaint with the NBDB against Simply Science 6 and Harnessing English 3. On October 3, the NBDB sent me a copy of the evaluation report submitted to them by three faculty members of the University of Santo Tomas College of Science, the CHED "center of excellence" (whatever this means) commissioned by the NBDB to evaluate Simply Science 6, as well as Simply Science 1, 2, 4 and 5. They pronounced these books to be "of good quality," despite their own findings that they contained "a number of careless generalizations which have lead (sic) to erroneous statements" and that they manifested "a number of grammatical lapses." The term "a number" means "a certain quantity not precisely reckoned, but considerable, rather large or great." **Did they not, in fact, contradict themselves?** On October 18, the NBDB informed me that Harnessing English 3 had been declared (by the Ateneo de Manila University English Department, the CHED "center of excellence" assigned to evaluate Harnessing English 3) "of poor quality." In both instances, despite repeated requests, I the complainant was not given copies of the evaluation reports showing the detailed enumeration of the errors found in these books, as well as the corrections suggested by the reviewers. The NBDB's November 17 letter to me asserts : "A complainant is not entitled to the detailed evaluation reports, for the CHED centers of excellence which made these detailed reports consider them confidential." Is this fair? Denying me the opportunity of assessing and studying the process which led to the outcome of the investigation which was instigated by me in the first place is tantamount to subversion of the truth on the part of the NBDB. What are they hiding? The impeachment trial of Erap was televised, was it not?

In an ad published on June 27, the NBDB announced that the Ateneo de Manila University English Department found Harnessing English 5 to be "commendable." My own thorough examination of this book revealed that it contains at least 250 errors. How can a book this perverse be worthy of approbation, praise or commendation?

The NBDB admission that two Phoenix books ---- Simply Science 3 and Harnessing English 3 ---- are "of poor quality" came about only because I made a lot of noise. Phoenix Publishing did not, out of the goodness of its heart, voluntarily submit its books for evaluation ---- I forced them into doing it!

If two out of the twelve Phoenix books were proven to be "of poor quality," how in Heaven's name did it come to pass that the rest are "good and commendable"? Had all not been cut from the same bolt of moth-eaten cloth? In spite of this, the registration of Phoenix was not cancelled. It was not fined P100,000. The NBDB defended Phoenix by saying : "The NBDB published its guidelines in January 2005 regarding measures taken in cases of publication of poor quality textbooks. Because the two Phoenix books were published before 2005, Phoenix is not subject to such guidelines." Neat!!! The NBDB should have told me that before accepting my complaint. Para walang false hopes, no great expectations, on my part.

On May 30, 2005, I filed a complaint against a certain textbook by another publisher with the NBDB. On June 13, its Acting Executive Director Maricar T. Aquino wrote me : "Give us a month to have the book evaluated." Six months have passed yet until now I have not received any news about it from the NBDB. When I called on November 16 to inquire, Aquino went ballistic and castigated me for being "demanding." Perhaps this extremely uncivil civil servant has forgotten that she herself set the deadline of one month and that item number 4 of the NBDB guidelines clearly states : "Evaluation of textbooks shall be done within a month from the date of acceptance." Bakit nagagalit na matanong ang taong ito when the NBDB is way way behind its self-imposed deadline? Being the complainant, don't I have the right to ask? Because I am fed up with the infernal way the NBDB has been treating me, I now take this opportunity to inform the NBDB that I am withdrawing my complaint against the said book, which I evaluated in a span of only 18 days from April 3 to April 20, 2005. Wala rin lang patutunguhan!

My intention in filing those complaints was precisely to test whether "the new set-up works." It isn't working. The errors in the Phoenix books are there, are real, are of the kind that makes you want to puke, over and over again, yet the NBDB and Phoenix Publishing would have us believe that the errors, like Garci, are not errors, that they could not be found in these textbooks. I have identified the errors, shown exactly where they are. Unlike Garci, the errors in these books cannot hide at will or be deliberately lost or missing. They could not be found because those who were tasked to look for them are either intentionally cross-eyed or blind by choice. The mere fact that these books were submitted to the NBDB ---- and no publisher in his right mind will voluntarily submit his books for evaluation without a complaint being lodged against them ---- is proof positive of the existence of these errors. A rating of "fair" or "average" would've been acceptable, but never "good and commendable." The seal of quality given these ten books of Phoenix bear the indelible mark and imprint of human incompetence.

Having a publisher sit on the Governing Board of the NBDB is wrong. Alegria Sibal-Limjoco, Vice-President of Phoenix Publishing House, is a sitting member of the Governing Board, the same body which processed my complaint against the two textbooks of Phoenix. There is clear conflict of interest here.

Lastly, I wrote five officers of the NBDB Governing Board ---- DepEd's Fe Hidalgo, DTI's Elmer Hernandez, DOST's Lourdes Orijola, UP's Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo and ADMU's Queena Lee-Chua ---- two letters each, on two separate occasions (September 25 and October 14). Only Usec. Hernandez had the basic courtesy to reply. Your excellencies: I would have you know that I do not possess a tail. I am not a dog. But even dogs get attention when they bark. Even dogs do not bark for the mere fun of it. I wrote you people not to talk about the weather but to tell you about the improprieties I see happening within your turf. Is it not your concern? As public officials, you cannot just not answer letters addressed to you. What are you in position for? Is courtesy towards the public not part of your functions? Have you experienced how it is to talk to a statue?

### Parbangon *

We hang by a thin thread and there is absolutely nothing but the mere pleasure of God which keeps this thread from breaking. There is just so much iniquity, so much sinning and wickedness happening in our land that God must now be very much displeased with us. We are thus in the hands of an angry God. These thoughts assailed me as we were traveling down the Patapat Viaduct between Bangui and Pagudpod one day before dawn. It was totally quiet; we were absolutely alone. To God in his heaven our puny vehicle must have looked like an ant crossing a stick slung across a raging stream. And, in a very real sense, we were : myrmidons reverted to our origin. Patapat, hemmed in between the mountains and the sea, suspended between earth and sky, is the slender thread by which we hang. Now, if God, in a moment of sudden fury, should think to withdraw his hand.....

Bangui, so beautiful that it is sad, is a land once seen will not be easily forgotten. Yet its people are poor and, for the longest time, sad. Here, it is as if the hands of time had been wrenched from the face of a clock nobody sees, effectively slowing everything down. Even the dawn here seems to take an inordinately long time coming. When all over Asia it must already be morning, here the sun tarries in its bed below the horizon, merely spreads the thin light of false dawn over a land battered to silence and run to the ground by its own political, economic, social and religious leaders. Happiness is a far, far country. When will the morning of love come to us, the people of the ravine? I wonder.

Our leaders --- and these I've been told are all, all honorable men --- have done nothing but lie to us, cheat us and steal whatever paltry, pathetic possessions we have. They have ravaged this country's fortunes and eroded our children's futures as relentlessly as waves eating into the shoreline. All these we have allowed to happen, to be done to us, by our complacence, our indifference, our groveling cowardice. Because we are the children of our collective deeds and misdeeds, we the innocent suffer alongside the guilty; for the wickedness of a few, all are punish-ed! I see dead people. Time is running out on us: the clock without hands will not stop to give you the time of day.

I have been dragged before the bar of justice by the guilty, made to account for the sin of calling a spade a spade. Is it not the goal of education, the very purpose of our faith, that we seek the truth and, once we find it, announce it and spread it? But such is the sad state of this our ragtag republic, that the one who wants to tell the truth has to pay a pound of his own flesh for the means of conveying it, while Conjurors, Deceivers and Enchanters rule a ragamuffin empire. I fought giants and windmills in my time, when my madness was at its most lucid, in a desperate bid to end the rule of the unthinking wise and the insatiable rich in Philippine education. For all that I have done, I feel as if I had merely plowed the sea..... done nothing at all. The issue of defective textbooks, some say, is a dead issue, a case it must be of death by **mokusatsu** ("to kill with silence"). Still, there is in me the wondrous stirrings of that little thing we call hope, that which is in each one of us the very last to die. Here in the crevasse where we have fallen, where it is still dark, when we wait a bit longer, huddle a bit closer to one another to keep out the cold, daybreak follows heartbreak. Morning too must come. Hope ordains it. The blue clouds of unknowing will part, and then God will reach down to pick up the reins.. .. It is prudent for us to wait until the evil influence of the stars that now reigns passes away. **Awan ti dakes a di agpullo. ** Barbareng no kakasyanna datao ni Apo Dios. *****

( Written in Bangui: the morning green and cold, the air redolent with the exudation of some strange forgotten flower, and through it all, one single thread of thought --- my weak old mother in this wild windy place at land's end, when both were young and had not been punished with the passing of time. Not a far country but a near place in the heart, happiness is here with me this moment, so palpable and proximate you can taste the brine in the sibilant wind from the sea. You will never be anywhere, never be happy, till your heart concedes : this is exactly where I want to be. )

* Dawn.

** There is no evil that does not end.

*** I hope that God will bless us.

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ADVT.

# La Union no place for casino, say its clergy

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DIOCESE OF LA UNION IS NO PLACE for casinos.

The province's clergy, led by Bishop Artemio Rillera, has issued a manifesto scoring the planned operation of a casino at a hotel resort in Barangay Poro, San Fernando City.

"There can never be a justification for promoting gambling as in a casino establishment under the pretext of generating jobs, raising the standard of living, increasing the gross national product and providing economic sufficiency," they said in the two-page document.

Rillera and his priests warned that a casino would "spawn untold evils" such as prostitution, drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and "all sorts of crime and the destruction of family values."

"These evil consequences would even far outweigh the possible benefits that such facilities for gambling would produce," they said.

They said the local government could live without a casino by exploring other areas "for the sake of providing job opportunities and uplifting the living conditions of the poor."

The diocese's strong and passionate position against casinos apparently digresses from the seemingly tolerant attitude on state-sponsored gambling by other bishops in the country.

In September, Archbishop Fernando Capalla, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said that accepting cash donations from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. was not in itself immoral.

He was ostensibly talking of the Church doctrine that defines gambling as "amoral."

But he received flak just the same, especially after the INQUIRER reported that he and several other prelates had received hefty cash donations from the state-owned gambling agency.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, himself a recipient of generous donations, was quoted by Capalla as saying: "I'd rather accept gambling money than let the poor die."

But for the likes of Bishop Rillera of La Union, there seems to be no gray area on the morality of gambling.

"One of the moral evils that exist in society is gambling and whatever form it takes threatens the moral values that ought to shape and form the human person into a responsible and God-fearing person," he and his priests said in the manifesto.

# Mike D dared: Revoke order on logging

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. JAMBY MADRIGAL HAS CHALLENGED Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to revoke his order lifting the logging moratorium in Samar to show he was serious about barring Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's company from harvesting timber on the island.

"If he wants to walk his talk, let him rescind his memorandum order allowing Enrile to cut logs in Samar," said Madrigal in an interview.

Madrigal has initiated an inquiry into the displacement of indigenous peoples as a result of Defensor's order.

"It's better if he walks his talk, then we can sleep more soundly," she said.

Unless he rescinded his order, doubts about whether Defensor was serious when he barred the Enrile-owned San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC) from resuming its operations would linger, Madrigal said.

"If he doesn't rescind the order, then the SJTC people can push for what they feel now is their legal right. Let him show his goodwill by rescinding the order and I'm sure the bishops will give him their benediction," she said.

Madrigal recalled that Defensor had declared a log ban in Quezon province, but that the damage wrought by landslides at the height of storms late last year proved that illegal logging had not been stopped.

Hundreds of thousands, mostly in the towns of Real, Infanta and Nakar in Quezon province, were displaced after their homes were washed away by floodwaters and landslides after days of heavy rains.

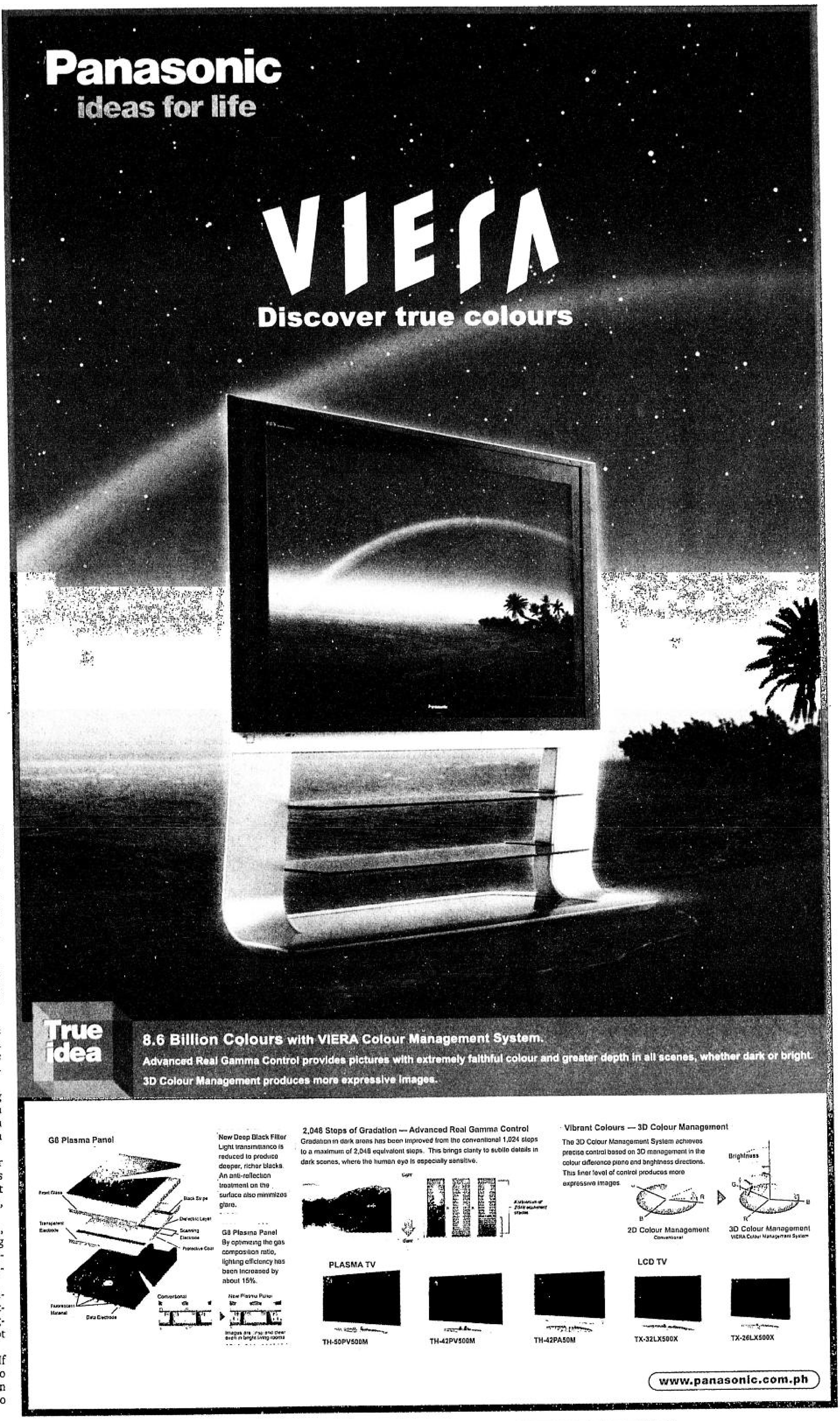
Defensor issued an order on Aug. 15 lifting the 16-year-long moratorium on logging in Samar, and allowing SJTC to log anew in a 95,770-ha area in the heart of the 300,000-ha Samar Island Nature Park.

But after months of fending off criticisms over his order, Defensor gave his word to the bishops of Samar last week that the Enrile firm would not be allowed to harvest timber again on the island, and later confirmed this to the INQUIRER.

The bishops of Samar and Leyte, in turn, called off a Dec. 5 antilogging and antimining caravan rally and a plan to collect 200,000 signatures for a petition urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to cancel the firm's permit.

Enrile as well lawyers of SJTC sounded unperturbed by Defensor's reported commitment to the bishops to ban the firm from logging anew on the island, saying this did not supersede his official order in August.

"I'm waiting for them to do their duties. If they want to cancel their decision, I leave it to them. That's up to them," said Enrile curtly in a chance interview last week. He declined to answer other questions.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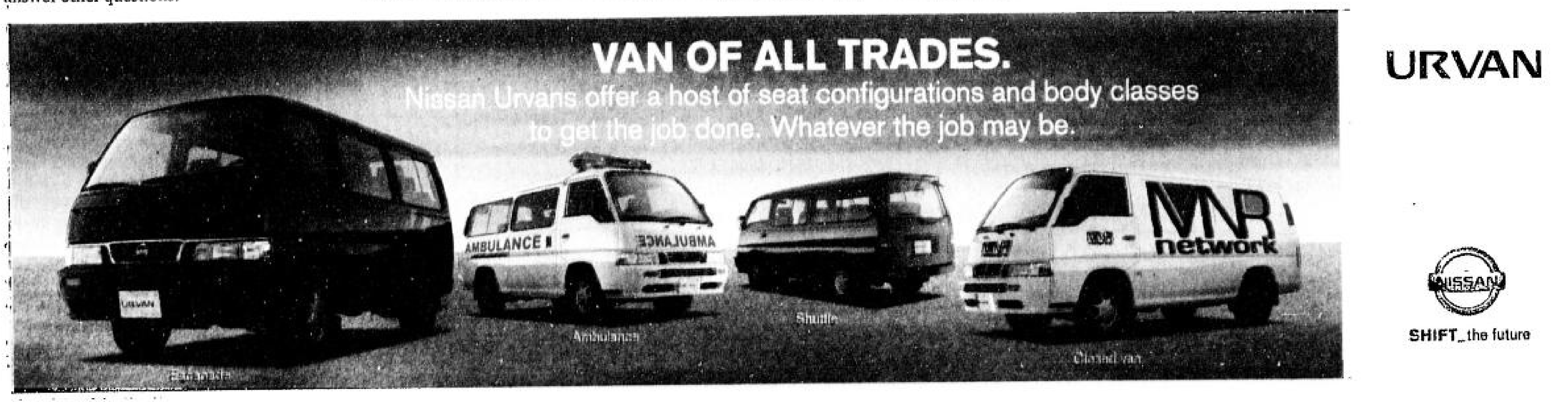
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# She's fair, firm, strict, 'like a woman'

**A FORMIDABLE MASS OF HUMORLESS HUMANITY** that Rep. Emmylou Talino-Santos had to contend with as chair of the committee on public information during Garcillano's appearance in the House of Representatives on Dec. 7. PDI PHOTO

From page A1

and the president of the province's municipal mayors' league.

According to Santos, he is her "most admired person" for maintaining "a low profile" and for being "a sincere public servant."

"He ran unopposed in a war area like Carmen. He commands respect," she had said.

## Academics

Santos was born in Makilala, North Cotabato, on Feb. 25, 1972, and became the youngest representative of her province in 2001.

In 1985, she graduated grade school salutatorian at the Notre Dame of Kidapawan for Girls and with honors in high school from the same school (now St. Mary's).

She was president of the Student Supreme Council when she was a high school senior.

Santos acquired a bachelor's degree in accountancy from the Ateneo de Davao University. She entered law school at the University of Mindanao in 1996 and graduated in 2000.

At 20, Santos entered politics and served as chair of the Sangguniang Kabataan in Carmen. She was president of the SK Provincial Federation of the province in 1993-96.

In 1998, Santos became senior board member of the first district of Cotabato. She authored the Gender Code of the province in the same year.

She was named one of the most outstanding members of the House in 2003.

## Independence

Remulla said he was not surprised by the performance of Santos, a fellow member of the Nacionalista Party.

"When we were in the minority [during her first term in the 12th Congress], she immediately showed her independence. In our first week of sessions, she was the first among the neophytes to question the quorum," he said. "She would not kowtow to anyone."

Remulla pointed out that Santos could show independence because she belonged to a powerful political clan in North Cotabato. "They have a very strong political hold in her province, so she does not need to depend on any national party for favors to get herself elected."

When Remulla was removed as lead chair of the "Hello Garci" inquiry, the majority left it to the Nacionalista Party to decide on who would replace him.

Remulla said the party held a caucus and decided to give the job to Santos, who accepted the offer.

"Some did not want the post, and the others were not fit for the job," Remulla said. "Considering that this is her first time to be [committee] chair, she's doing very well."

## Thumbs up

Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino, a staunch defender of Ms Arroyo and initially rumored to be Remulla's replacement, also gave Santos a thumbs up.

"She did a fair job for the first hearing. She was able to control the floor and exhibited impartiality," he said.

Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman said: "I think she handled it very splendidly. I heard no complaints from my colleagues."

In the 13th Congress, Santos is a member of 13 committees, including those on accounts, constitutional amendments, national defense, women, rules, rural development, energy and social services.

She co-authored, among others, the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2001, the law against trafficking of women and minors, and bills on the Magna Carta for Day Care Workers, and reproductive health care.

## Proud parents

According to Carmen Vice Mayor Moises Arendain, Santos' parents are pleased with her designation as chair of the committee on public information.

"On Wednesday I stayed with them the whole day," Arendain told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "Her father and mother are very happy about her new job in Congress. Her mother said Lala's doing fine in her job, and they are giving her their full support." *With a report from Rolando Pinsoy, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Boo! Ho! Ho! Santa sacked . . .

From page A1

Go!" than "Ho! Ho! Ho!" for actor Alan Seymour, 57, who was told to clear off when he refused to stick to a strict 30-second time limit with each Santa-loving child, the Daily Mirror said.

The sessions cost 17.50 pounds (26 euros, $30.70) each. The actor was accused of losing customers because bored children were spending too long queuing up for the grotto.

Seymour, complete with white beard and red suit, claims he was frogmarched out by the heavies as he got one sack more than he bargained for.

"There's no way it can be done in 30 seconds. People were complaining they didn't have long enough with Santa," he told the tabloid.

"Children were bringing me lists they had written. They also wanted to have their picture taken," he explained.

"I was hustled out by bouncers. It was very humiliating. I was trying to do my job as best I could for the children. They're being ripped off."

Seymour's turn as Santa went up the chimney after just one hour at the Santa Land exhibition at Earl's Court in central London.

Promoters Dreamtime Events said: "He was taking about 10 minutes with each family. We find people would rather have a brief visit than spend hours in a queue." However, it seems the spirit of Christmas is not completely dead.

The firm claimed Seymour had been offered alternative Santa shifts in the region. *AFP*

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# Reopened US Embassy sets rights 'chat'

AFTER KEEPING THE PUBLIC OUT FOR TWO days because of a plausible terrorist threat, the US Embassy in Manila is throwing open its doors — to computer chatters, that is.

The embassy is hosting an online discussion on human rights on Monday, ready to engage the public in what has been a sensitive aspect of the United States-led war on terror.

In line with Human Rights Week, the embassy will conduct the "chat" through the US Virtual Consulate website in Davao beginning at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Topics will revolve around US advocacy of human rights and the human rights situation in the Philippines, according to the website.

Joining embassy officials are Bernie Larin, information officer of the Philippine Human Rights Information Center, and Edgardo Diansuy, media director of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines.

The human rights chat was organized in the wake of Washington's insistence, through US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, that it "does not permit or tolerate the torture of any terrorists detained in its custody."

Recent news reports have alleged that the Central Intelligence Agency runs secret detention centers in certain East European countries.

"The United States has not transported anyone, and will not transport anyone, to a country where we believe he will be tortured," an embassy web posting early this week quoted Rice as saying.

*Volt Contreras*

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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 11, 2005
3rd Sunday of Advent

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

Rejoice, God is near to the humble

The Spirit of the Lord Yahweh is upon me,
because Yahweh has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up broken hearts,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
freedom to those languishing in prison;
to announce the year of Yahweh's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to give comfort to all who grieve;
I rejoice greatly in Yahweh,
my soul exults for joy in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of his salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of his righteousness,
like a bridegroom wearing a garland,
like a bride adorned with jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its growth,
and as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord Yahweh make justice and praise
spring up in the sight of all nations.

**2nd Reading:** 1st Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice: the Lord is coming

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks to God at every moment. This is the will of God, your vocation as Christians.

Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise the prophets' warnings. Put everything to the test and hold fast to what is good. Avoid evil, wherever it may be.

May the God of Peace make you holy and bring you to perfection. May you be completely blameless, in spirit, soul and body, till the coming of Christ Jesus, our Lord; he who called you is faithful and will do it.

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8,19-28

Among you stands He whom you do not know

A man came, sent by God;
his name was John.
He came to bear witness,
as a witness to introduce the Light
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the Light
but a witness to introduce the Light.

This was the testimony of John when the Jews sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?" John recognized the truth and did not deny it. He said, "I am not the Messiah."

And they asked him, "Then who are you? Elijah?" He answered, "I am not." They said, "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Tell us who you are, so that we can give some answer to those who sent us. How do you see yourself?" And John said, quoting the prophet Isaiah, "I am the voice crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord."

Those who had been sent were Pharisees; so they put a further question to John: "Then why are you baptizing if you are not the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet?" John answered, "I baptize you with water, but among you stands one whom you do not know; although he comes after me, I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal."

This happened in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**Commentary**

*A man came, sent from God. He came as a witness to introduce the Light. John testifies that he is not the Light he is the voice crying out in the wilderness: make straight the way of the Lord. And he knows and makes others aware that the Other is in their midst and they do not know him. He himself is not worthy to bend before him and untie his sandal straps. It is Advent and we are to witness and introduce the Light to the world: to cry out with our words, our presence, our decisions and work for reconciliation and justice that this Other is in our midst and most are not aware of his presence. We learn to see, perhaps by bending and serving those in our midst most in need, in the corporal works of justice and mercy. Do we know him as he stands among us?*

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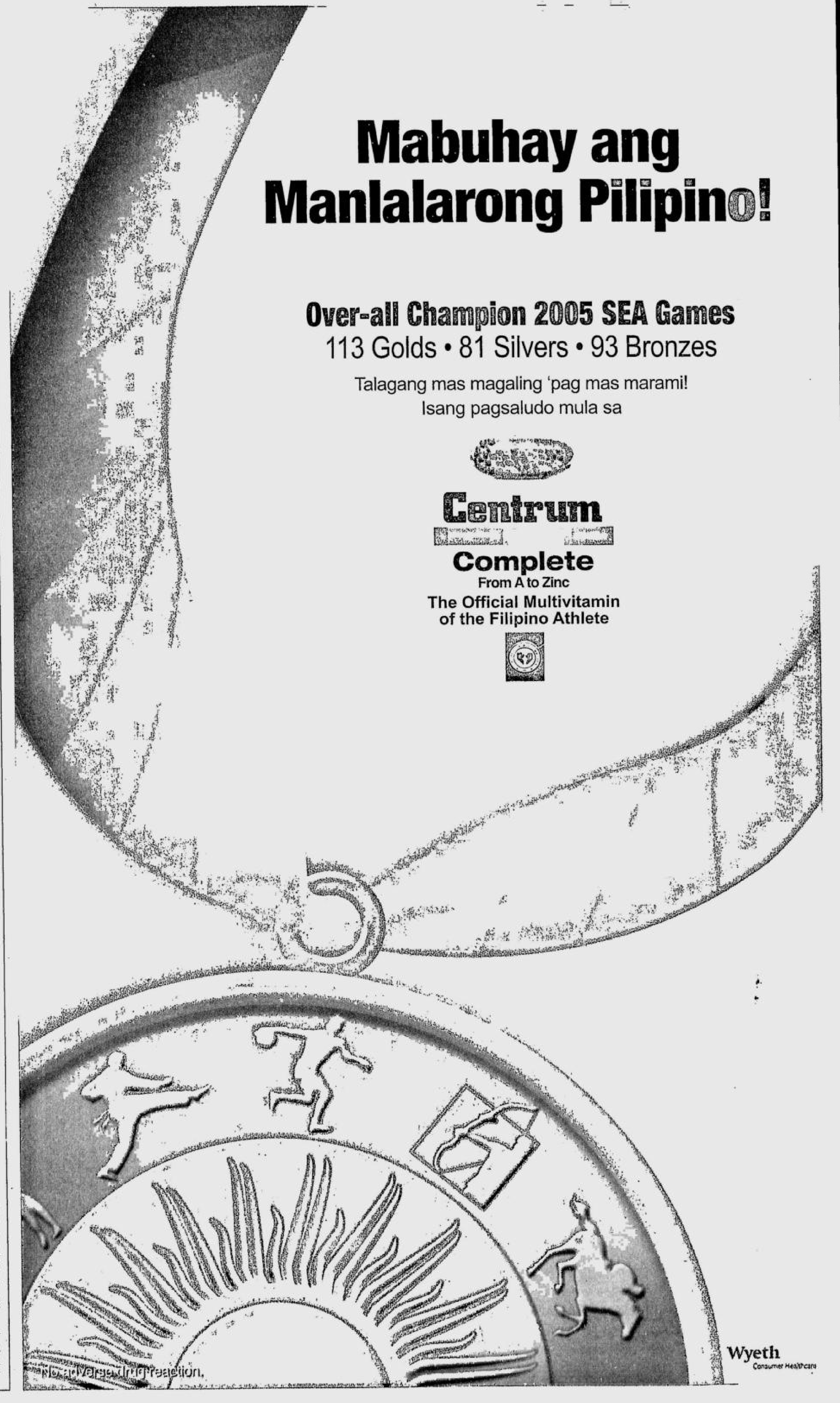

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## The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# US the 'bad boy' as world climate talks near end

MONTREAL—THE UNITED STATES STOOD alone in resisting new international talks on ways to combat climate change on Friday as most countries moved closer to extending the Kyoto Protocol to curb global warming beyond 2012.

The United States, the largest producer of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, was blocking an accord on the launch of a new dialogue among all 190 states at a meeting in Montreal—not just Kyoto members—on ways to rein in greenhouse gases.

"The current text is unacceptable," chief US negotiator Harlan Watson told Reuters of a Canadian proposal at the UN's climate conference, which was likely to last into Saturday. "We are talking to see what might be acceptable."

Calling climate change the biggest environmental threat to the planet, host Canada wants to launch a nonbinding world "dialogue" about climate change, blamed on a buildup of gases from fossil fuels burnt in power plants, factories and cars.

The United States pulled out in 2001 of the UN's 157-nation Kyoto Protocol, under which about 40 industrialized nations agreed to curb emissions until 2012. Washington said Kyoto would be an economic straitjacket.

Even without a deal on the Canadian proposal, Kyoto countries are hoping to announce an agreement in Montreal to launch negotiations from May 2006 about a second phase of the protocol. Russian objections were holding up a deal.

Former US President Bill Clinton told the meeting on Friday that his successor, George W. Bush, was "flat wrong" in arguing Kyoto would harm the economy.

Bush prefers his own approach to stem global warming, mostly by investing heavily in technology.

European Union officials urged the United States to rejoin global dialogue.

"Sixty years ago Winston Churchill told the US Congress the United States always does the right thing, after having exhausted all other options," EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas told a news conference.

"I think it will be very difficult for the United States not to join the dialogue that has almost unanimous support," he added.

The United States struck back at some of the criticism.

Canadian media reported the White House was angry with the host nation after Prime Minister Paul Martin directly accused it of not doing its part against global warming. *Reuters*

# Ecuadorean woman, 116, is world's oldest person

LONDON—A 116-YEAR-OLD Ecuadorean woman was declared the oldest person in the world on Friday, lifting the title from a US woman previously thought to be the oldest person alive, Guinness World Records said.

Maria Esther Capovilla was confirmed as the oldest living person after her family sent details of her birth and marriage certificates to Guinness World Records.

"We only told her yesterday she was the new Guinness world record holder," Kate White, brand manager at the records publisher said. "We hadn't heard of her before."

"She's in very good health, she's got good sight, is able to read the papers and watch television, and doesn't walk with a stick," White added.

Capovilla was born in Guayaqull in western Ecuador on Sept. 14, 1889, and lives there today with her daughter-in-law and son.

She had five children, and has four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Her husband died in 1949.

White said Capovilla had been asked what she thought about the changes she had seen over her life.

"She said she disliked the fact that presently it's acceptable for women to pursue men. And she said that every day she thanks God that she's alive," White said.

As a girl at the turn of the century one of Capovilla's favorite pastimes was going to parties, where she never drank alcohol.

At the time it was the custom for women just to touch the rim of the glass with their lips without drinking, as a sign of accepting hospitality, her family told Guinness World Records.

Elizabeth Bolden, from Memphis, Tennessee, born Aug. 15, 1890, had previously been regarded as the oldest living person.

Edith "Judy" Ingamell, 111 years old, from Enfield north of London, became the oldest woman in Britain after the death on Wednesday of the previous title holder Lucy d'Abreu, Guinness World Records said.

D'Abreu, who lived to 113, attributed her longevity to a daily dose of brandy and dry ginger ale.

Emiliano Mercado Del Toro, from Puerto Rico, born Aug. 21, 1891, is the world's oldest living man, aged 114, says Guinness World Records. *Reuters*

**PHOTOGRAPH** dating from 1925 shows Ecuadorean woman Maria Esther Capovilla (holding infant) who is now aged 116 years and was declared by Guinness World Records as the oldest person in the world on Dec. 9. Above, Capovilla in 2005. REUTERS

# Singaporean draws jail for hitting maid

SINGAPORE—A SINGAPOREAN housewife has been jailed for two weeks for hitting her Indonesian maid with a hairbrush, a report said Saturday.

Lim Wooi Cheng, 38, struck Karyatun, 27, in the lower back last October after hearing her infant son cry, The Straits Times quoted deputy public prosecutor Wayne Koh as telling the court on Thursday.

Lim's lawyer, Kelvin Lim, was quoted as saying the maid had earlier caused his client to have a miscarriage. She did not dry the floor after mopping, which caused Lim to slip and fall, he said.

New York-based Human Rights Watch in a report Tuesday said that maids in Singapore suffered serious abuses including sexual violence, food deprivation and home lockups.

The government called the report "a gross exaggeration" and defended existing legislation protecting foreign domestic workers.

About 150,000 women work as maids in Singapore, most of them from impoverished villages in the Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. *AFP*

# Arrested Croatian general to be taken to UN tribunal

MADRID—FUGITIVE CROATIAN ex-general Ante Gotovina will be transferred to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague on Saturday aboard a Spanish military aircraft, police said Friday.

He was expected to be flown from the airbase of Torrejon de Ardoz, east of the capital, on Saturday morning.

Gotovina, 50, on the run since his indictment in 2001 by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), was arrested late Wednesday at a luxury hotel in the Canary Islands and flown to Madrid on Thursday.

He faces charges relating to the death of some 150 ethnic Serb civilians during a Croatian offensive in the Serb-held Krajina region in 1995 towards the end of the four-year war in Croatia.

Along with Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic he is regarded as a top suspect from the wars which ravaged the former Yugoslavia.

Spanish Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said earlier Friday that Gotovina had "two fake passports," one in the name of Kristian Horvat which he was carrying when he was arrested.

The stamps in this passport showed he had visited Argentina, Chile, China, the Czech Republic, Russia, Mauritius and the French Pacific territory of Tahiti during his four years on the run. The last exit stamp was from Mauritius on Nov. 25. *AFP*

# IAEA chief warns against military strike on Iran in nuke row

OSLO—THE HEAD OF THE UN nuclear watchdog agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, on Friday said the international community was losing patience with Iran over its nuclear program but cautioned against using military action.

"The international community after three years is losing patience" with Iran, ElBaradei told reporters in Oslo, where he is to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on Saturday.

He insisted however that "I don't believe there is a military solution to the issue."

"I think that a military solution would be completely counterproductive," he said, pointing out that diplomacy and cooperation tend to yield "better results than the stick."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its director, who will share the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize and an accompanying cheque worth $1.3 million, have been instrumental in thorny nuclear negotiations with Iran.

The agency has threatened to take the country before the United Nations Security Council for violating nuclear nonproliferation rules.

Iran has meanwhile insisted that its nuclear program is merely designed to meet domestic energy needs, while the United States, Israel and others have charged it is a cover for a program to develop an atom bomb.

Washington has said no option is off the table in dealing with Iran's nuclear ambitions, and Israel has made it clear it will not allow its neighbor in the Middle East to obtain a nuclear weapon.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz stated Friday that while diplomatic channels remained the best way to deal with the Iran issue, "it is necessary to also prepare the other means."

On Friday, ElBaradei insisted that there was still a chance to find a diplomatic solution.

"But this window of opportunity is not forever," he said, adding that "the next couple of months are going to be very crucial." *AFP*

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# Australia inks peace pact with Asean

KUALA LUMPUR—AUSTRALIA SIGNED a peace treaty with its Southeast Asian neighbors on Saturday and rejected what it called puerile comments about it being America's deputy sheriff in the region.

"I think even you could move beyond the puerile allegations of deputy sheriff," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer snapped at a reporter when asked about the role often ascribed to Australia as a proxy for Washington in the region.

Downer was speaking at a news conference in the Malaysian capital moments before he signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which calls for signatories not to interfere in each other's internal affairs.

The treaty was born within the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), which made signing the pact a condition for entry into next week's inaugural East Asian summit.

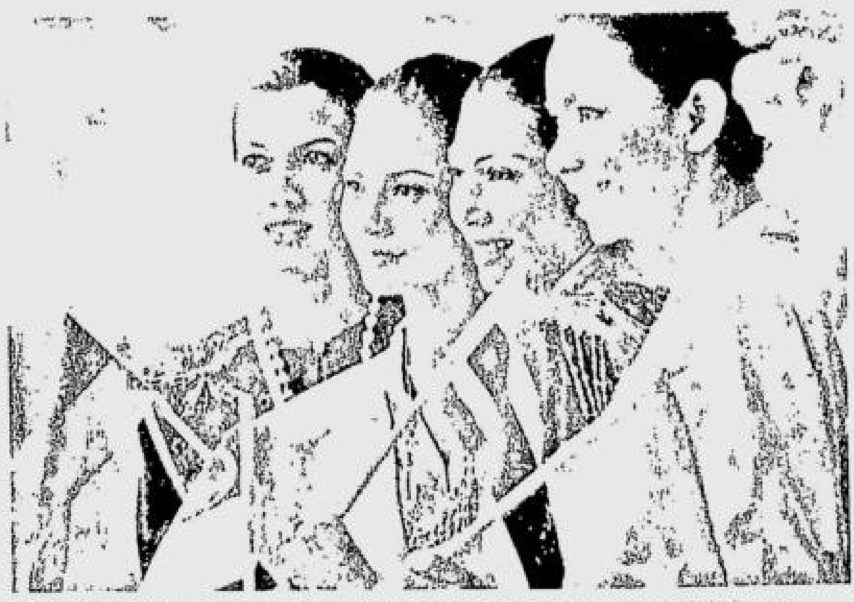
Australia hesitated to sign the treaty, saying it might conflict with its existing security arrangements with the United States, but reconsidered when it became clear that Canberra would not be invited to the summit without its signature.

"Being part of the East Asia summit, that's a quid pro quo we are happy to live with," Downer said, adding that Australia had received guarantees from Asean that its signature on the treaty would not disturb its existing treaty arrangements.

Australia's entry into the East Asia summit, along with Asean states and Japan, China, South Korea, India and New Zealand, follows the 2003 retirement of former Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad, who had always opposed its membership in Asian forum.

Mahathir routinely calls Australia the deputy sheriff of Washington in Asia.

"Now Australia is basically European and it has made clear to the rest of the world it is the deputy sheriff to America," Mahathir told a news conference on Wednesday. *Reuters*



**MALAYSIANS** hold flags of members of Asean nations at the 11th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur on Dec. 10. REUTERS

# Short runways in focus after Chicago airport accident

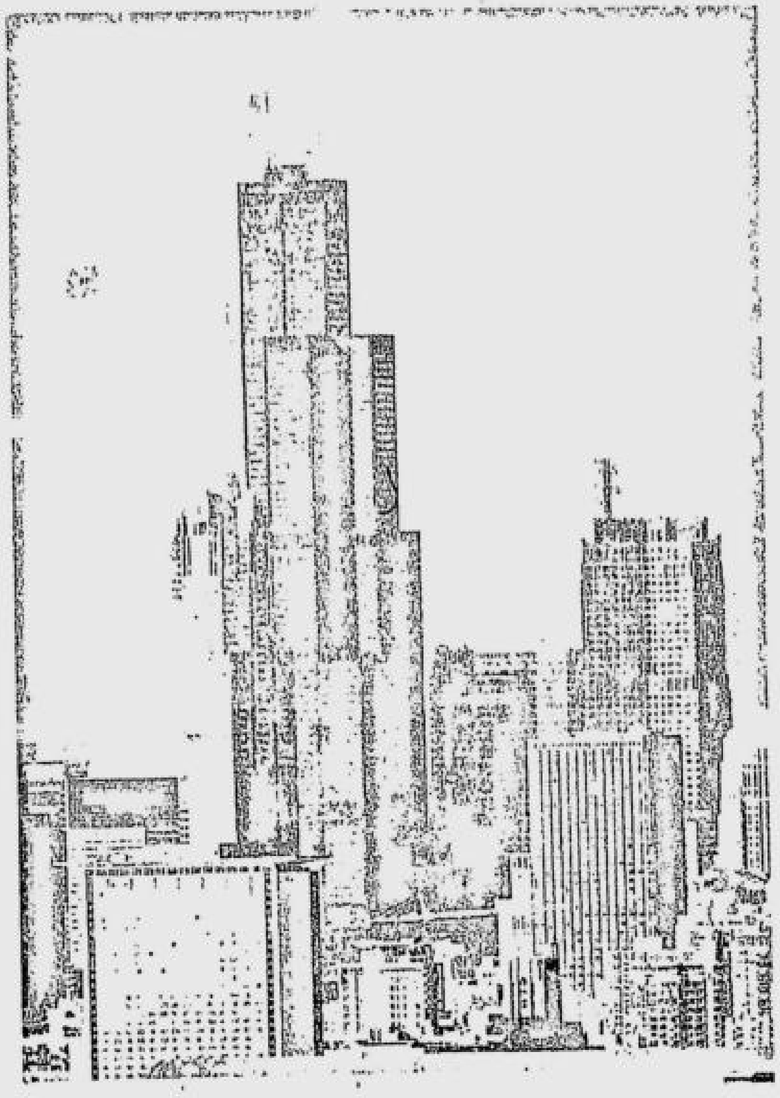
CHICAGO—A DEADLY ACCIDENT IN WHICH a Boeing 737 slid off the end of a snowy runway brought renewed demands Friday for buffer zones or other safety measures at hundreds of airports around the nation to give pilots a wider margin for error.

In Thursday night's accident at Midway Airport, a Southwest Airlines jet making a landing plowed through a fence and into a street, killing a 6-year-old boy in a car. Ten other people, most of them on the ground, were injured.

The National Transportation Safety Board said the cause of the accident was still under investigation, and the plane's voice and data recorders were sent to Washington for analysis. But much of the attention focused on the 6,500-foot runway.

Like nearly 300 other US commercial airports, Midway lacks 1,000-foot buffer zones at the ends of its runways. Midway, a compact one mile square, was built in 1923 during the propeller era and has shorter runways than most major airports, with no room to extend them because it is hemmed in by houses and businesses.

Safety experts say such airports can guard against accidents by instead using beds of crushable concrete that can slow an aircraft if it slides off the end of a runway. *AP*



WITH its lakefront and landmarks such as the Sears Tower (seen above), the Field Museum and Wrigley Field, Chicago will never be mistaken for another city. But it is changing dramatically. AP

## *Rapidly changing Chicago becoming less distinctive*

**By Don Babwin**

CHICAGO—TO FORmer Mayor Jane Byrne, Chicago's elevated trains are more than a mode of transport. They are one of the things that make Chicago distinctive.

And those things seem to be disappearing one by one.

"Chicago has been chipped away," said Byrne, mayor from 1979 to 1983. "I look at my grandson … and what you want to tell him about different things, things that won't be there for the next generation of Chicagoans."

With its lakefront and landmarks such as the Sears Tower, the Field Museum for natural history and the baseball stadium Wrigley Field, Chicago will never be mistaken for another city. But it is changing dramatically.

The L, as the elevated train is known, is still very much here and is in no danger. But gone are the steel mills and stockyards that gave the city its reputation for broad shoulders. Gone, too, is Comiskey Park, replaced by a gleaming new stadium. The proud columns of Soldier Field, the home of the Chicago Bears football team, remain, but since a massive renovation project completed in 2003, it looks like a spaceship landed on them.

In September came what was viewed by Chicagoans as the ultimate indignity: The announcement that Marshall Field's, the city's most famous department store, would be renamed Macy's.

"I like the Macy's in New York, but I'm not in New York. I'm in Chicago," said Michael Braun, a Chicago lawyer who was shopping at Field's original State Street store the day the name change was announced.

The changes extend to how and where people live. In neighborhoods across the city, scores of taverns and other small businesses have been erased from the landscape in favor of pricey bistros and new condominiums.

"I don't recognize my own neighborhood," said writer Studs Terkel, one of Chicago's most distinctive literary voices for decades. He lives on the North Side.

Tourists can take an elevator to the top of the Sears Tower, but it takes a car to get to the company's headquarters, which moved to the suburbs in 1992. Company after company once synonymous with the city—Montgomery Ward and Amoco, among them—has either died or moved out of town.

Chicago is "more homogenized, kind of Disneylike, in the sense that it is a city but there is something artificial about it," said Perry Duis, a University of Illinois at Chicago historian. "The L, you take that away and you won't know where you are."

Chicago is certainly not the only city seeing change. But in Chicago it can be serious business.

"I have rarely experienced a city that is so enamored with its history," said Lonnie Bunch, former president of the Chicago Historical Society. "Chicagoans revel in their history."

It showed itself in the late 1980s when the Chicago Cubs baseball team decided to install lights at Wrigley Field, years after every other major league team had them. It surfaced when Field's announced it would stop making its famous Frango Mints in Chicago after seven decades and move production to Pennsylvania. And it is there whenever old buildings get torn down to make way for new ones.

"There is incredible tension in Chicago between tradition and innovation," said Blair Kamin, a Pulitzer Prize-winning architectural writer for the Chicago Tribune. "On the one hand it is a city that invented the skyscraper, and on the other it tries to preserve landmarks (built) 100 years ago."

That tension was seen with the renovation of Soldier Field, which has been branded "The Eyesore on Lake Shore," "Acropolis meets Apocalypse" and the "Mistake by the Lake." *AP*

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NCLEX | | | 02 10AM | | 12/6 | |
| CGFNS | 08 6PM | 14 6PM | | | | |
| TOEFL | | | 16 6PM | | | |
| TSE | 08 7PM | | | | | |
| IELTS | | | | | 1/9 | |
| NLE | 08 5PM | 14 5PM | | | R.C. 2/1 | |
| NMAT | FRI 7PM | | | | | |
| USMLE | 15 6PM | 07 6PM | 09 6PM | | | |
| NPTE | [illegible] | | 08 5PM | 1/3 | 1/3 | |
| PTLE | FRI 6PM | | | | | |
| | | | | | T.P. 12/5 | T.P. 12/5 |
| GMAT | 01 7PM | 10 2PM | | | | |
| GRE | 01 7PM | 10 2PM | | | | |
| CAREGIVER | 18 [illegible] | | | 12/2 & 12/9 (MAKATI CENTER) | | |
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# Britain admits it knew 1950s nuke material was Israel-bound

LONDON—BRITAIN ADMITTED FRIDAY THAT it knew that heavy water it sold in the 1950s, a key ingredient in making nuclear weapons, was bound for Israel, amid claims of a coverup.

An investigation by BBC television's "Newsnight" program unearthed papers showing a deal was done to export heavy water.

The probe showed that "Britain knew that the heavy water was going to Israel and that the Israelis were likely to use it to make nuclear weapons," alleged BBC reporter Michael Crick.

Britain's Foreign Office Minister Kim Howells has insisted that Britain had merely negotiated the sale back to Norway of surplus heavy water. That surplus was then sold on to Israel.

Officials had added that they were unaware that Israel might have nuclear weapons ambitions.

However, a Foreign Office spokesperson, while maintaining that it was purely a deal between Britain and Norway, admitted Britain knew the heavy water's final destination.

"The papers show that we agreed to transfer back to Norway control of 25 tons of heavy water," the spokesperson told the BBC.

"We were aware at the time that Norway planned to sell the heavy water to the Israeli Atomic Energy organization," he said, going further than Howells.

The BBC said new documents had emerged which cast doubt on claims that British officials had no idea of Israel's intentions.

In 1958 Britain's Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) wrote to Foreign Office official Donald Cape, who gave the ministry's approval for the deal.

Britain had seemingly bought too much heavy water from a Norwegian company and wanted to sell the surplus.

According to one letter, UKAEA said another Norwegian company, Noratom, wanted to purchase it to sell it on to Israel.

"The new customer is the Israeli atomic energy organization," the letter said, according to the BBC.

This would put Britain in a tricky position as "it could be argued that the Israelis will receive the heavy water by reason of our reselling it to Noratom; that therefore we are parties to the supply to Israel."

"Newsnight" also said it had a copy of Israel's contract with the Norwegian firm which said it would provide heavy water from the UKAEA.

The program said it had seen a letter written by Cape quoting secret US Central Intelligence Agency reports from 1957 and 1958, which took the view "that the Israelis must be expected to try and establish a nuclear weapons program as soon as the means were available to them."

*AFP*

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**THATCHER** leaving the central London hospital where she spent the night after being admitted the previous day following a visit to her hairdresser's. AFP

# Daughter says Thatcher forgets start of sentence

LONDON—FORMER BRITISH Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's short-term memory has faded to the extent that she cannot remember the start of a sentence by the end, her daughter Carol revealed Saturday.

The "Iron Lady," 80, who has suffered a series of minor strokes, can still vividly recall events in the distant past but no longer reads much because it is "pointless," Carol Thatcher said, describing her mother as "very frail."

"For someone who had such an exciting life, she doesn't take well to having time on her hands," journalist and broadcaster Carol, 52, told the Daily Mail newspaper.

"She doesn't read much because of her memory loss. It's pointless. She can't remember the beginning of the sentence by the time she reaches the end. She picks up on little bits of the news."

Thatcher, who was Conservative PM from 1979 to 1990, spent Wednesday night in a London hospital after feeling faint.

Declaring "I feel fine," she checked out Thursday.

Carol Thatcher said: "The memory loss is very strange because her recollection of distant events is still sharp. A friend commented to her the other week: 'Oh, Margaret, it's like rationing!'

"Immediately, my mother sparkled and this fellow got 15 minutes on wartime privations, including all mum's favorite recipes for Spam.

"She can talk very lucidly about things that happened half a century ago but she cannot remember the last minute. She's had a series of very small strokes and that's the net effect.

"People say: 'It must be really annoying for you,' but I always say: 'No, it's incredibly frustrating for mum.'"

"She had such a brilliant memory—like a website. She could quote inflation statistics going back years without reference to a single note. It must be so infuriating for her.

"And, of course, she misses dad."

The former premier was hit hard by the death in 2003 of her husband, Denis Thatcher, as well as by a four-year suspended prison sentence given in the last year to her son Mark for his part in a coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea.

"She just sat and worried when she was on her own," Carol Thatcher said of the scandal involving her twin brother.

She said she was not close to Mark Thatcher.

"We don't talk to each other. I don't know where Mark is living now."

Carol Thatcher last week emerged the winner of a prime-time British reality television show set in an Australian rainforest, titled "I'm A Celebrity ... Get Me Out Of Here!"

The show involves several grueling challenges, including eating foul dishes, with the contestants voted out by the public one by one.

"The kangaroo testicle was squelchy, a bit disgusting and very difficult to chew," Carol Thatcher told the Daily Mail.

On hearing of yet another Thatcher election victory, her mother commented: "I'm proud. She showed true Thatcher spirit."

The now Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven set Britain on a new course in the 1980s, transforming the kingdom's woeful economy into a powerhouse.

*AFP*

# Death toll from bird flu hits 70 as Thai boy dies

BANGKOK/WASHINGTON—A Thai boy has become the 70th person to die of bird flu, authorities said on Friday, as reports warned a flu pandemic could cost the US economy hundreds of billions of dollars as well as millions of lives.

China has also reported a new case of H5N1, the fifth person in the country known to have been infected with the deadly virus. The 31-year-old woman farmer, who lived in Heishan county of Liaoning province, has since recovered.

Chinese officials were accused of concealing bird flu outbreaks in several provinces for many months this year, according to comments from a leading virologist in Hong Kong published in Canada's Globe and Mail newspaper on Friday.

The death of the 5-year-old boy from the central province of Nakhon Nayok, 110 km (70 miles) from Bangkok, took Thailand's bird flu death toll to 14 out of 22 known cases since the virus swept through large parts of Asia in late 2003.

It was not certain how the boy caught the virus, which usually strikes those in close contact with infected fowl or their droppings. The boy, who died in hospital on Wednesday, was not known to have had direct contact with chickens.

"We believe that the boy contracted the virus from his surroundings because, although his family does not raise chickens, there are chickens raised in his neighborhood," said Thawat Suntrajarn, head of the health ministry's disease control department.

That would follow the usual pattern of human infections of the virus, which has not yet shown signs of evolving into a form which could pass easily from person to person.

Experts say that is the great fear. If the H5N1 virus did acquire that ability, it could set off a pandemic which could kill millions of people without immunity to the new strain.

The virus is now endemic in poultry in parts of Asia and countries around the world are preparing plans to deal with a pandemic that could cause massive economic losses.

China has reported more than 30 outbreaks of bird flu and two deaths among cases where the virus has spread to humans.

Beijing has promised resources and openness in fighting bird flu after being widely criticized for an initial coverup of the SARS virus in 2003.

But Guan Yi of the University of Hong Kong, one of the world's leading experts on the subject, told the Globe and Mail newspaper that bird flu was "out of control in China."

*Reuters*

# Spate of child-killings puts Japanese on edge

TOKYO—ARMED POLICEMEN PATROL streets on the way to school, education officials draw up safety maps and young students carry alarms to call for help in an emergency.

A spate of grisly crimes targeting schoolchildren has horrified Japan and dealt a serious blow to its image as a safe country for children. The killings—one girl's corpse was stuffed into a box, another victim was stabbed a dozen times in the chest, a third also stabbed, allegedly by one of her teachers Saturday—have put authorities on alert and worried parents on edge.

This relatively peaceful country is reassessing such traditions as letting young children walk long distances to school on their own. Along with the school uniform and first book bag, the walk to school—sometimes taking 40 minutes in rural areas—has long been a rite of passage for children entering the first grade.

"I would never let my son go out alone. I like to have him around where I can keep an eye on him," said Naoko Ishibashi, a Tokyo housewife and mother of a 5-year-old. "These days, I feel worried when I see any child walking alone in the streets."

Education authorities and police are examining the routes children take to school, warning students about talking to strangers and establishing neighborhood "safehouses" where kids can flee if they feel threatened.

Technology also is playing a part. Authorities are stepping up plans to provide children with special alarms and tracking devices, and to establish cell phone networks to alert parents and children in an area when a threat is spotted.

The issue has attracted attention from the highest levels of Japanese government.

"Distressful and regrettable incidents have been occurring, and it's a problem that we need to take seriously," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said this week. "We need to strengthen cooperation between police, officials ... and families."

Crime in general has increased in Japan during the past decade of economic malaise, but the recent string of child-killings has been especially disturbing.

On Nov. 22, the strangled body of 7-year-old Airi Kinoshita was discovered taped inside a box on a parking lot in Hiroshima in southwestern Japan.

On Dec. 2, Yuki Yoshida, also 7, was found stabbed to death in a forest northeast of Tokyo.

The latest killing came Saturday when a teacher in western Japan allegedly stabbed a 12-year-old student, news reports said.

The first killing generated fevered coverage in Japanese media when a Peruvian immigrant was arrested, fanning growing fears that increasing numbers of foreigners are responsible for rising crime.

No arrests have been made in the second killing. *AP*

**A MOURNER** carries a portrait of 7-year-old murder victim Yuki Yoshida during a memorial ceremony in Imaichi, north of Tokyo, Dec. 6. Yuki was found stabbed to death in a forest northeast of Tokyo on Dec. 2.

AP

# Microsoft's Xbox gets lukewarm reaction in Japan

TOKYO—US SOFTWARE GIANT MICROSOFT went on the offensive on the home turf of its Japanese rivals Saturday, launching its sleek new Xbox 360 console ahead of the holiday season in a tough battle for business.

Some 200 game fans queued up for the main launch event that began at 7:00 a.m. at a music store in central Tokyo's fashionable Shibuya district.

"We signal the beginning of what we believe will be market leadership even here in Japan," Xbox marketing head Peter Moore said at the launch.

Yoshihiro Maruyama, who heads the Xbox division in Japan said: "We are feeling a very positive response. We want this machine to attract a far greater number of Japanese users than the previous model."

When Microsoft brought the first Xbox game console here in 2002 it was nearly two years behind Sony's PlayStation 2 and it has trailed ever since. This time Microsoft is doing its utmost to avoid history repeating itself.

The next-generation Xbox 360, which costs 39,795 yen ($330), comes ahead of next year's launch of PlayStation 3 and Nintendo Revolution.

The Xbox 360 is equipped with a DVD player capable of handling CDs and digital photographs through a built-in Windows Media Center—the same bundle of applications found in Microsoft's Windows XP PC operating system.

But despite its early market entry, consumers Saturday appeared muted in their enthusiasm in contrast to the excitement generated at the console's US debut on Nov. 22.

Only some 10 people were in line when a central Tokyo outlet of the Bic Camera consumer electronics chain opened its Xbox sales counter at 7:00 a.m.

Customer reactions "are a bit subdued," a senior store official said, adding that fewer than 50 consoles were sold in the first two hours.

"It's not going to be a big hit in Japan," said 26-year-old Kentaro Okamoto, one of the first Xbox 360 buyers. "I buy every new game console... but normally Japanese customers only buy a machine when it's made by Sony or Nintendo." *AFP*

# Video clips show contractors firing on Iraq civilians

WASHINGTON—THE US MILITARY has launched a formal criminal investigation into a video that appears to show contractors firing on civilian vehicles in traffic in Iraq, a military spokesperson said Friday.

The video, which has been circulating on the Internet, shows a compilation of video clips taken from the rear window of a vehicle showing other cars on the road apparently coming under fire from it.

No faces appear in the video and only a few words are heard on the soundtrack that was dubbed over with an Elvis Presley song, "Mystery Train." But at one point the silhouette of a barrel of an automatic weapon is visible inside the vehicle, followed by what appears to be a burst of fire.

In another clip, the impact of rounds can be seen hitting a vehicle on an open road. The vehicle then can be seen coming to a slow stop.

The video clips first appeared on a blog site called "Aegis PSD" operated by a former employee of Aegis Defence Services Ltd, a British firm with a 293 million dollar contract to provide the US government with security services in Iraq.

"There is an investigation underway by the US Army's Criminal Investigation Division in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a spokesperson for the Multi National Force-Iraq in Baghdad.

"When investigators became aware of the tape, they put it under review and subsequently decided that a formal investigation is warranted. We do not disclose any aspects of CID investigations while they are ongoing," he said. *AFP*

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- Choose the blinking Christmas lights rather than the non-blinking ones for they consume less electricity.
- Don't plug all your Christmas lights in one socket. Use multiple outlets.

2.
- Turn off and unplug all Christmas lights and "parols" before sleeping.
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- Use bulbs of lower wattage for your Christmas light fixtures so you can save on your electric bill.

3.
- Don't leave the Christmas tree switched on and candles lighted overnight to prevent fires.
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# OPINION

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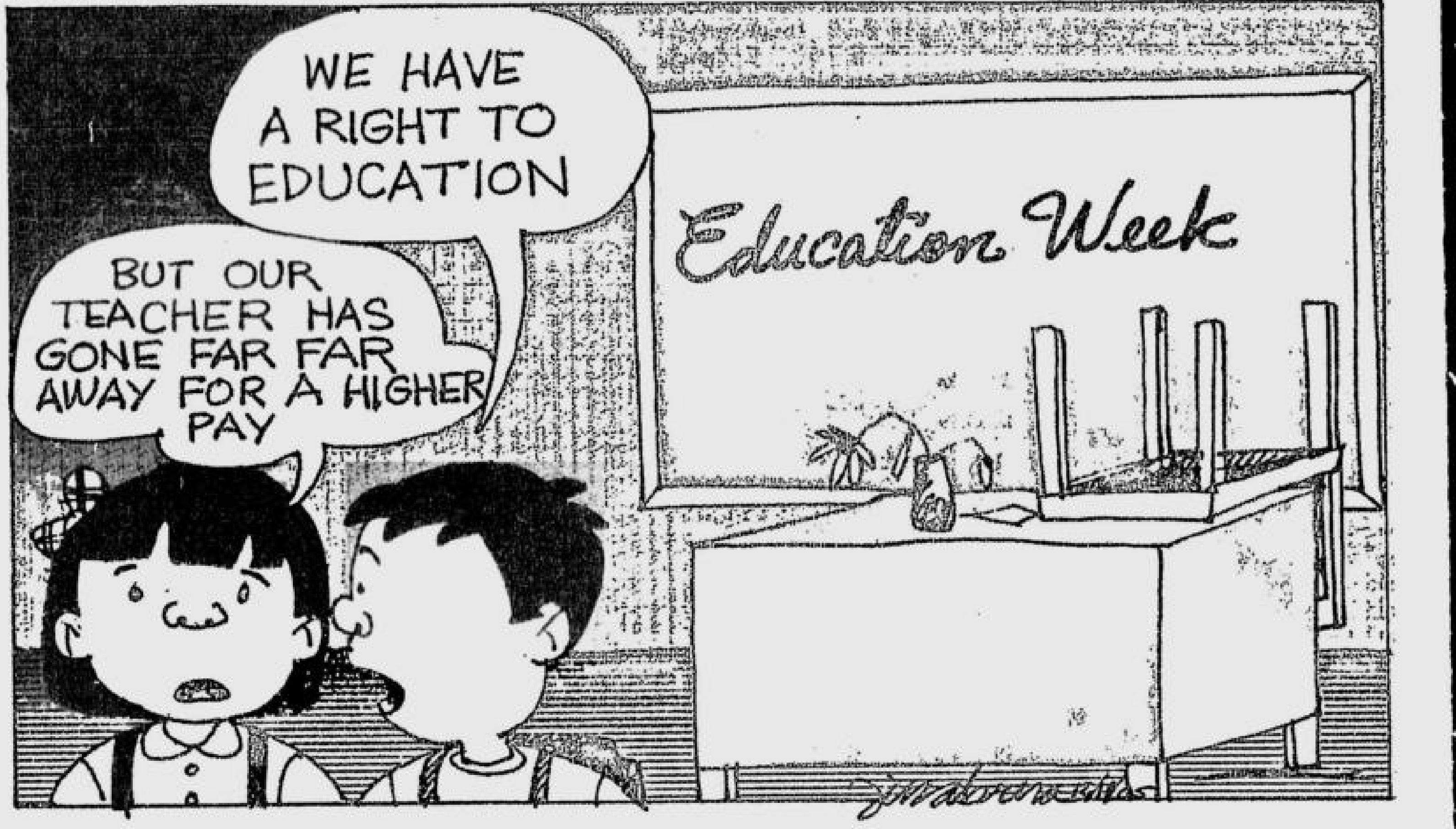
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# Unacceptable

**EDITORIAL**

IN 1990, AUNG SAN SUU KYI LED THE NATIONAL League for Democracy to a legislative election victory in Burma (Myanmar). Fifteen years later, the country's military dictatorship continues to refuse to honor the results of that election. In fact, in the last 10 years, it has kept Suu Kyi, the daughter of modern Burma's founder and the vital center of that country's democratic struggle, either in prison or under house arrest, without benefit of trial.

Recently, and contrary to its promises, the military government (called, in characteristically Orwellian terms, the State Peace and Development Council) extended Suu Kyi's house arrest for another six months. (Years ago, the military government had also renamed the country Myanmar.) The extension is yet another in a long line of appalling decisions, and is completely unacceptable.

It is high time, indeed, as the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus declared after its meeting in Kuala Lumpur last week, for the international community to press Burma to meet its democratization commitments and release Suu Kyi and the many other opposition politicians and activists from prison or detention: "Daw Aung San Suu Kyi [is] a legitimate leader with an integral role in the achievement of the democratic aspirations of the people of Myanmar. Her detention without trial for more than 10 of the past 17 years is completely unacceptable."

If Burma fails to do so within a year, the lawmakers from different Southeast Asian countries pledged "to campaign for the suspension of Myanmar's membership of Asean."

In the Asian context, where the language of diplomacy is even more non-confrontational than usual, the statement of the inter-parliamentary caucus is bracing and forthright. In case the Burmese military government failed to appreciate the statement's import, one of the Malaysian cabinet ministers who played host to last week's meeting, Nazri Aziz, made sure to tell reporters that the junta's treatment of Suu Kyi was a throwback to the days of Hitler and Stalin. (To which we can imagine a Burmese military general nodding in agreement: "Exactly.")

The Asean lawmakers also endorsed the inclusion of the Burma situation in the agenda of the UN Security Council. (For the first time ever, the UN's highest policy-making body will officially discuss Burma sometime in the next two weeks, in part because of pressure from the United States.) Given the realities of the Burmese situation, however, we have to say that even the lawmakers' admirably candid declaration did not go far enough. Two years ago, in response to international pressure, the military government of Burma publicly committed itself to the so-called "roadmap to democracy." Two years after, it has become clear that the country's military rulers have no intention of following the roadmap, much less of going on a real journey. They continue, in the words of the caucus, "to perpetrate gross and systematic human rights abuses against the pro-democracy movement, ethnic nationality communities and human rights defenders."

In July this year, the military junta succumbed to international pressure and agreed to skip its turn as next year's chair of the Asean. But any hopes this seemingly new-found agreeableness may have raised were completely dashed, after the junta suddenly decided to move its capital to a remote and incompletely built town (inaccessible, not coincidentally, to the diplomats working in Burma), and after it extended Suu Kyi's house arrest.

In other words, Asean's almost decade-long policy of "engagement" with Burma has failed. The idea was to bring the country into the international fold, and then, through cooperative arrangements, through bilateral and multilateral partnerships, to encourage its military rulers to eventually allow greater public participation in politics and governance. Eight years after joining the Asean, however, Burma remains decidedly undemocratic. The military government is grossly abusive of its people's rights; the repression and the junta's focus on remaining in power have turned national issues—such as narcotics production and the spread of HIV/AIDS—into international concerns.

Suu Kyi and her league of democracy activists must be released, yes; but even if or when that happens, suspension from the Asean must remain a ready option.

# Evading the truth

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THIS THOUGHT to all concerned, especially lawyers and including the public in general, on the following provision in Article III of the 1987 Constitution:

"Sec. 3(2). Any evidence obtained in violation of this or the preceding section shall be inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding."

The preceding sections are found in the present Bill of Rights safeguarding the right against unreasonable searches and seizures and the right to privacy.

Sec. 2 provides as follows:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effect against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable, and no search warrant or warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized."

Sec. 3(1) provides as follows:

"The privacy of communication and correspondence shall be inviolable except upon lawful order of the court or when public safety or order requires otherwise as prescribed by law."

Note the improvements made by the 1987 Constitution on the 1973 charter.

The probable cause to justify the issuance of a search or arrest warrant must now be personally determined by the judge, and only by him. Moreover, his determination is required to be personal and not through the intervening mind of another. Under the 1973 Constitution, this could be done not only by the judge but also by "such other responsible officer as may be authorized by law," like an inferior executive official.

Sec. 3(1) is reproduced from the Marcos charter except for a significant addition. The second exception now reads, "or when public order or safety requires otherwise as may be prescribed by law." This exception could be applied before in the discretion of any administrative official for say, denying the right to be left alone from any individual he chooses to molest.

The above more protective provisions must apply to the Garci tapes, whether authentic as claimed by the opposition or fabricated according to the administration. Their controversies may be full of sound and fury but signifying nothing. There is no question that the evidence they respectively invoke does not conform to the new requirements in the Bill of Rights.

I am as anxious as every civic-conscious citizen of our country to learn the truth about the Garci tapes that have intrigued the whole nation since they were exposed by the opposition and later denied by the administration.

Executive Secretary Ignacio Bunye first admitted that the voice in the tapes was the President's but later said he was mistaken. Then Malacañang produced its own Garci tapes to prove GMA's innocence.

Mrs. Arroyo herself acknowledged that she had indeed talked to Virgilio Garcillano but denied she had instructed him to falsify election returns in her favor. She said her call to the election official was merely a "lapse in judgment" and not a criminal act.

The Garci tapes became the basis of the effort to impeach her that was defeated despite charges of her powerful persuasions, financial and otherwise. Many of her erstwhile foes became her stalwart defenders or at least absent abstainers.

She later called for a national reconciliation but the mystery of the Garci tapes continued to perplex the nation. And the mystery has even deepened with the appearance at last of the elusive Virgilio Garcillano.

Garcillano disappeared at the height of the impeachment controversy and was reported to have flown to shores unknown. Now that he has finally surfaced, he claims he never left the country while the authorities were making a token search for him. Expectedly, they did not find him. Even GMA did not seem too anxious to locate him.

Knowing that the whole country was looking for him, Garcillano should have appeared and attended the hearings in the House of Representatives to shed light on the Garci tapes. Instead he vanished like a bubble. If as he now claims, he has nothing to hide, why did he avoid the committee investigations as if he had everything to hide?

The INQUIRER headlined last Wednesday, "Garci speaks—says nothing," I suppose he will be as evasive in the Senate as when he wasted the time of the House of Representatives by peppering his testimony under oath with lies, evasions, insinuations, forgetfulness, and other mockeries of the truth. He must be thinking what a clever fellow he is for outsmarting all those pompous legislators.

But to go back to my original misgiving, will the Garci tapes be admissible evidence under the Constitution? Will they be judicially considered exceptions to the conditions specifically prescribed in Sections 2 and 3 of the Bill of Rights?

If so, although I hope I am mistaken, we should put an end to the debates on the Garci tapes. Instead of giving the disreputable Virgilio Garcillano a national platform where he can swagger with the arrogance and liberties of a royal jester, let us reluctantly write finis to this insufferable charade.

# Truth holders

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT AN INTOXICATED husband who came home late at night. As soon as the wife opened the door he said: "My dear wife, you look beautiful tonight!"

Surprised with the sudden compliment, the wife asked: "Why do you say that?"

"That's because beauty is in the eyes of the "beerholder," said the husband.

* * *

**In today's Gospel (Jn. 1, 6-8, 19-28), we hear of John the Baptist so clear and sure of His answer to those who questioned him about who he was and what his mission was. That's because he held the truth in his heart. One who holds the truth can speak his/her truth quietly, simply, and clearly. He/she who holds the truth does not need the coaching of lawyers. Why? Because a truthful person does not lie and, therefore, he/she does not need to remember his/her previous lies, and is not afraid to fall into traps. Yes, pity those who hold lies in their hearts. They are the most unfree people. They are always tormented by fear of being found out; they are always imprisoned by their own lies.**

* * *

John the Baptist reminds us that it is not enough to be a truth holder. We who hold the truth must also spread the truth and must not be afraid of the consequences that go along with it. It seems to me that liars are bolder and more organized in spreading their lies, and seemingly more successful too! And they seem to get away with their lies. Truth decay is the worst thing that can creep into a society. It destroys values, shatters relationships, destroys our institutions, and worse, eats up our self-confidence and dignity as a people and as a nation. When will all the lying end? When will all the cheating stop? When? When truth holders are not afraid to become truth spreaders.

* * *

**Jesus once said that no one lights a lamp and hides it under a bushel. That is precisely what truth holders do when they refuse to stand up for the truth. How can so few people manipulate the truth and fool millions? All of us must stand up and say "no more lies"! I don't know about you, but I am not going to be made a fool by a few lying men and women who have the money, the means, and the power to lie. But you know what? The bigger the lie, the brighter and clearer the truth becomes.**

* * *

Anyone who deliberately withholds any part of the truth from those who have the right to know is himself/herself a child of darkness and not of light. This Advent, let us allow God to "disturb" us from our complacencies and comfort zones. At the end of our lives may we not be faulted of having been too safe and comfortable, of having been too prudent at the expense of truth.

* * *

**I was in St. Christopher Church in Taipei recently to give a recollection to our overseas Filipino workers there. Having been a missionary to Korea for four years myself, I know the homesickness they feel in their hearts especially this time of the year. They are out there braving loneliness, difficulties and even persecution to earn honest money for our country and for loved ones at home, and it is sad that, many times, their efforts go to waste, the money they earn not put in good use. Let us all work and pray that, someday soon, no Filipino will have to go to a foreign land just to find work and earn a living. When? Let's begin with the most basic things, like truth, for instance. As long as we do not hold the truth dear to our hearts, we are just going around and around, we will never really get to start.**

* * *

A lot of Christmas parties are going on in offices and homes these days. Let us not forget that a Christmas party is a party for and with Christ, the birthday celebrant. Why throw a party at home? It's because we want to honor and remember Christ at Christmas. Why spend money for the poor this Christmas? It is because we want to follow what He Himself told us, i.e., to love one another. Why give gifts to people? It is because we want to be grateful to the Lord who has given us our blessings. Let's bring Christ back to Christmas!

* * *

**How do we "make straight the way of the Lord"? Let's go P-A-S-K-O. P is for "*pasok Kristo.*" Let us welcome Jesus in our hearts by making a good confession. A is for "*atras bisyo.*" Let us turn away from things, concerns and relationships that make us dirty in God's eyes. S is for "*samba tayo.*" Let us find time to really pray and have time for silence amid all the noise and rush and really listen to God speaking to us. K is for "*kalat bango.*" It's that time of the year to be more cheerful and more hopeful in spite of difficulties and problems. It's also the time to reach out to others and to share our blessings to the less fortunate. Finally, O is for "*ora mismo.*" Let us do all of the above now, and not postpone our conversion and our loving.**

* * *

Think again: there were people who were with you last Christmas and who are no longer with you this Christmas. And, there are people who are with you this Christmas who may not be with you anymore next Christmas. It could be his/her last Christmas. It could be your last Christmas. It could be my last Christmas. So, why don't we make this the best Christmas ever yet. Yes, let us not postpone our conversion, our loving.

* * *

**The Divine Word College, Udaneta, Pangasinan will hold an alumni homecoming on Dec. 30, 2005. Please contact Nora Villanueva and Lovelyn Morales (09179274679; 09209189752).**

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, help me not to be just a truth holder but to be a truth spreader as well. Amen.

# Golden girl of Philippine archery

**REVEILLE**

*Ramon J. Farolan*

A NEW STAR OF PHILIPPINE ARCHERY emerged from the last SEA Games. Amaya Paz took the gold in the individual women's compound competition and then led the women's quartet in winning the team competition in the same event. Her teammates in the triumphant effort were Jennifer Chan, Abigail Tindugan and Joan Tabanag. In the individual competitions, the two finalists—Chan and Paz, both Filipinos—were tied going to the last arrow. Chan hit an 8 while Paz scored a perfect bullseye 10. When asked how she felt just before releasing her last winning arrow, Paz replied, "There was no pressure at all since in the end, it was the country that would win the gold." The following day, Paz continued her winning form, leading the women's team to victory. The men's recurve team, made up of Marvin Cordero, Mark Javier, Florante Matan and Rhoy Cubilla, also won the gold, giving the country three gold medals, the first time archery contributed that many to the nation's gold haul.

Just to refresh our memories, last March, I noted that there are a few sports where we stood a good chance of collecting gold. These are events which do not require height, unusual strength or speed. But like many other activities, what is needed is adequate training, personal discipline and determination, reasonably good equipment and dedicated coaching. Last February, in the First Asian Archery Grand Prix in Bangkok, Amaya Paz won individual and team golds plus another gold during the qualifying round. She was hailed by Bangkok sportswriters as "a major force in the coming SEA Games." She proved them accurate in their predictions, and today Amaya Paz is the golden girl of Philippine archery.

"Amaya" is an Ifugao term for "love charm." In the family, she is better known as "Aya," the younger of two children of J.P. and Deda Paz. A third year BS Psychology student at the University of the Philippines, Aya is the granddaughter of Jim and Consuelo Paz, former dean of the UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy. Most of the Paz grandchildren have Filipino names bestowed by their *lola*, a linguistics expert who has devoted much time studying ethno-linguistic groups in various parts of the country.

Aya Paz fell in love with the sport several years ago while watching the archery competitions at the Atlanta Olympics. She noted that the Korean ladies' team won the gold and felt that, perhaps, it was a sport in which Filipinos could also excel. She started out at the archery range close to the UP College of Music under Jun Cortes, the coach of the national team, and decided it was an activity which she enjoyed. Soon she was devoting more time and effort at improving her skills. Without taking away any credit from her Filipino coach, it was a Korean, Choi Won Tae, who provided the needed push to bring her performance up to higher standards.

If we are to raise the performance levels of our athletes, we must have an open mind about hiring foreign coaches, even to the extent of paying them more than the local rates. The rationale for allowing imported basketball players to play in our professional league, the PBA—aside from their being crowd drawers—is to provide our athletes with the opportunity of playing with others who possess different skills, abilities and styles, thus familiarizing them with aspects of the game from a different perspective. And of course, these imported players are actually being paid more than the local boys for their services. The same holds true for coaches. American basketball coach Ron Jacobs is a good example. Eduardo Cojuangco knew what was needed for basketball and he got the best that was available, and the country benefited from the experience. Other countries prepare their athletes by hiring former champions. Nadia Comaneci, the great Romanian gymnast, is now training gymnasts of Qatar/United Arab Emirates for the coming Asian Games and Olympic competitions.

Archery is a sport where we definitely can excel; and the Koreans are a people with a culture of sacrifice and discipline ingrained in their system and way of life. We should find a way to take full advantage of the presence of Koreans in training more of our athletes. Having dealt with Koreans in the past, I realize they are a difficult people to get along with. They tend to be abrasive, harsh, uncivil and brusque in their behavior and language. But perhaps, in the training of athletes, we need advocates of strict discipline, taskmasters, slave drivers, or even a tyrant to be able to bring out the excellence in a person. Compassion, kindness and pity are best set aside for another time. Just look at how Korean lady golfers now compete in the Ladies Professional Golfers Association (LPGA) in the United States. If they don't come out as champions, they are usually in the top five of the winning lineup. There is something about their training methods which appear to bring out the best in the individual and drive them to improve and excel in their efforts.

Of course, not much can be done without adequate funding, and considering the very limited resources of our government, much depends on support from the private sector. San Miguel Corporation has served as the generous godfather not only to Philippine archery but also to other sports in need of financial assistance. The National Archery Association of the Philippines is headed by Dr. Leanora Brawner.

# Ten reasons to wait

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

OUR ANNUAL DEC. 8 GATHERING IN OUR FAMILY home in Cubao, to mark the birth anniversary of our Mama Nami, was made doubly special this year for two reasons: the visit of our cousin Buddy Braganza of San Bruno, California; and the "caroling" of a group of Higaonon children and elders, brought to Manila by Parfund.

For four years now, Parfund (Philippine Agrarian Reform Foundation for National Development Inc.) has been raising scholarship funds for children of farmers and farm workers through "Himig Pasko," which is done by groups of carolers composed of Parfund scholars. "Himig Pasko" is quite special this year as the carolers are composed of children and adults from the Higaonon tribe from Bgy. Minalwang, Claveria, Misamis Oriental.

The Higaonon "delegation" is composed of Tatay Camilo Pinagawa, the tribal "datu," and Nanay Melodia Labutay; and children Alice, Marlen, Wennie, David and Jomar, whose ages range from 11-16 years old. Clad in colorful hand-sewn tribal wear with colorful bead necklaces and head-gear, the tribal folk perform traditional dances, with the children singing carols in their native language. If you want to help the five children and other Higaonon youngsters continue with their education, you can get in touch with Parfund through Tel. Nos. 426-5658 or 426-6001 loc. 4829.

By the way, the name of the organization founded by Jennifer Wallum that helps Aeta communities that were displaced by the Pinatubo eruption is the "EVA Charity Foundation." EVA stands for "Entrepreneur Volunteer Assistance."

The foundation is involved in literacy projects, school building construction, entrepreneurial support through micro-lending and livelihood projects, as well as environmental protection and reforestation.

I also mentioned that EVA funds its activities through the sale of Pinatubo ash handicrafts designed by Lanelle Abueva. These attractive and practical ceramic items, which would make excellent Christmas presents, are available at Silahis Arts and Artifacts, Holiday Inn Clark, Tesoro's and Hotel Intercontinental Lobby Shop.

* * *

AMONG THE MEMBERS of the Manila Women's Forum I met at last Monday's meeting was Cindy Tan Jarabata. She promotes Muntinlupa and the whole of southern Metro Manila as an investment destination. At the same time, she is involved in setting up a new hotel in Subic to be called "The Lighthouse."

But I thought it quite telling that after updating the MWF women about her professional activities, Cindy took a deep breath and said: "And now, on to my real work!" Cindy's real "work" is as executive director of Advocates for Youth, an NGO she helped found to help teens exercise responsible sexual behavior.

Working with the local government of Muntinlupa, Advocates for Youth (also known by the Gentext acronym of A4Y) conducts training workshops with students and teachers of public high schools in the city and elsewhere. To reach a wider audience, A4Y distilled the discussions on love, romance and sex from numerous workshops (where over a thousand Pinoy youths took part) and formulated "10 Reasons Why I Should Wait," now on flyers for public distribution, but especially aimed at young women. "If anyone suggests you try sex, here are some creative ways to respond," the flyer says. "Get together with a group of your own gal pals and come up with your own list."

Here then is an early Christmas present for young women and others who care for their future and their parents.

* * *

TEN reasons why I should wait:

10. Real love—means respect, right time and responsibility. We can learn so much more about each other by agreeing to wait together.

9. Sex—is soooo much different (from) love, let's start on love first. Having sex doesn't prove I love him or he loves me. I don't want to give in now and then regret my decision later. How would I feel if it's just a one-night stand? I'd be so embarrassed and can't deal with the pain.

8. Who I am—I'm still trying to figure out who I am. I don't want to complicate that. Sex can be confusing. It can play with my heart and twist it inside out. I'll leave the drama to the TV shows.

7. I have dreams—I want to be a journalist, a doctor, an artist, a flight attendant, etc. These skills take time and dedication. For now, I want to concentrate on school, build a career and help out my family. I'm acting today to build my dream "tomorrow."

6. Sex can wait—It's a quick act, but can have lasting responsibilities. For now, I have enough responsibility in finishing school and helping my younger siblings.

5. Be a better parent—I will be a better parent when I'm married and ready. I'm just not ready for the responsibility of being a parent now. How can I be a good mom when I'm just a kid?

4. Fun things to do—There are a lot of fun things to do while I have few responsibilities. I love to talk about music, movies, fashion and travel. I love to play sports, hang out with friends, and go to the mall. If I get pregnant, I'd be at home all the time changing diapers while my friends are out being teens.

3. Girl time—I want to enjoy being with all my friends. I may want a boyfriend, but I also need my girl time. I also love to meet new people. Who wants to be too serious with just one person? If I got pregnant, there may not be much time for anyone but the baby.

2. I'm already cool!—There's no need to prove it. My real friends stand behind me on this. We're creative. We can stand up to any peer pressure if we stick together. Besides there's nothing cool about syphilis, gonorrhea, HIV or any other STD.

1. I'm worth it!—I'm a hip, smart girl. I see a good career and a happy family in my future. Holding on to my values makes me a stronger person. I'm worth the wait!

# Demanding closure

**PUBLIC LIVES**

*Randy David*

OF THE MANY QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN asked since the nation first became aware of the "Hello Garci" tapes, two have stood out. Did President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conspire with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the canvassing of the 2004 election results in Mindanao? Did the Armed Forces of the Philippines allow the use of its personnel and resources, including its wiretapping capability, to promote the personal political career of Ms Arroyo?

Plain common sense tells us that it would be almost impossible to get truthful answers to these questions while Ms Arroyo is President. The government of a country with weak institutions like ours has enough power in its hands to frustrate any serious inquiry into such issues. The Arroyo regime, in particular, has repeatedly demonstrated its readiness to do whatever it takes to remain in power.

Even those who have crucial information to reveal and do not personally like Ms Arroyo may not find it easy to come out. The costs are high; the outcome is not certain. The effects on the privacy and peace of mind of the whole family, not to mention the threats to one's personal security, are vexations that one's kin will usually regard as totally unjustified. Unless one is intentionally seeking publicity, it is more natural and convenient to say nothing. That is why the public typically questions the motives of those who come out to volunteer what they know, while it reserves the virtue of discreetness to those who remain silent.

Truth-seeking and truth-telling, therefore, are not natural inclinations. They are learned moral actions. A society presses for the truth when persistent ambiguity and lies begin to be experienced as injurious to its long-term growth.

Such moments, I think, are brought about by changes in the circumstances of people. People wake up one morning and, as if recovering from amnesia, they start to ask questions whose answers previous generations have always known but hardly cared about. We've always known politics in our country to be dirty, for example. As Ms Arroyo reminds us, no one comes out of it with clean hands. We've also known that agencies of government are routinely abused by those in power during elections. The framers of the 1987 Constitution knew this and sought to minimize the practice by barring the reelection of the president. What then is different about the 2004 election? Why have we allowed wiretapped conversations about election rigging to cast doubt on the "true" electoral outcome previously determined by the Commission on Elections, Congress, the Namfrel, the bishops, and the international observers?

The answer can only be that something changed in the situation of the Filipinos that made them believe that now it is not only possible but necessary to have a government that has a clear mandate and is accountable to the people. That is why they are demanding fidelity to institutions, and a rational accounting of the acts of government. To the horror of the traditional politicians who have taken for granted the habitual indifference and dependence of the public, Filipinos are taking democracy and the rule of law seriously. They are demanding truthful answers to questions no one thought important before.

My interest as a sociologist is to determine what changes are supplying this impulse toward political modernity. In previous essays, I have proposed two possible factors: first, the phenomenal spread of television and radio as vehicles of politically relevant information and opinion; and second, the acquisition by the Filipino of modern political values as a result of overseas employment. In the limited space of this column, I shall try to summarize these two points.

From 1986, television has served as an effective medium of political democratization due largely to the unprecedented use of Filipino as the dominant language in news and public affairs programs. This used to be a role reserved to radio. Because of the language shift, television acquired a central role in the shaping of the national discourse. Instead of being supplanted, radio received a boost from the growing popularity of television. The combined effect of this is the weakening of the importance of traditional patron-client structures that, in the past, almost exclusively determined political behavior.

Since the mid-'70s, Filipinos have begun to travel to parts of the world they had not known before. Today, more than 8 million Filipino workers live in 192 countries. They remit to their country not only money but also new beliefs. Their exposure to a variety of cultures and societies shapes, among other things, their understanding of politics and their expectations of government and citizenship. Coming home after finishing their contracts, they can hardly be expected to think of their country in the old way. They have seen how governments in modern societies work, and how citizens assert their rights and demand responsibility of one another, and wonder why Filipinos must be content to live with corruption and incompetence at home.

They feel entitled to demand more certainty in the application of our laws, greater predictability in the conduct of our institutions, and more transparency in the actions of those who make decisions in their name. These demands, born of a new awareness, swept the Estrada administration out of power in 2001. It is just a matter of time before they sweep Ms Arroyo away.

The crisis that the Filipino nation faces today is the product of new horizons, not a curse or a recurring misfortune.

*Comments to public.lives@gmail.com*

# Into the sound and fury

**REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE**

*Patricia Evangelista*

TWO WEEKS AGO, I WROTE A COLUMN ON ACTIVISM, springing from a lecture I heard in class.

"One of my professors said that a student who questions activism is an embarrassment to UP. There is a right, she said, and a wrong. To question that right and wrong is a ridiculous postmodernist concept. She said that those who oppose activism live with a false consciousness of reality."

My argument is a simple one. I believe that political activism is one among many ways to help the country, and that people determine their paths based on personal beliefs and experiences. I believe there is no single way to judge which form of involvement is best. I make the personal choice not to be an activist.

A friend forwarded to me a reply written by Bogart Jaime and UP faculty member Sarah Raymundo—a response to my piece that they had been circulating in the Internet and giving away in classrooms. Although I don't make a habit of directly replying to criticism through my column, I'm making an exception for this one—first for the purpose of clarification and second for the purpose of debate.

The way toward public involvement has two clear sides: one side stands for tolerance of differing beliefs; the other takes a more extreme view—that is, only one means and one perspective is correct.

Ms Raymundo and Mr. Jaime accuse me of many things. I am a "megalomaniac," who uses her column for "self-gratification" and purports an "insidious and arrogant stance." I am, they claim, a "socialite" with "perverted logic" and "patronizing" opinions to the point of "utter absurdity." At the same time, they concede, I am but a victim "lured by the discourse of neoliberalism." I will not argue with any of these accusations, claims and concessions, as they are personal opinions. I do not believe they fall within the confines of a debate.

I make one apology: for failing to name Professor Lani Abad, the speaker of the above quoted paragraph that sparked this debate. I had assumed it was polite to hold the name back and keep the discussion on the level of ideas. I have just learned it is best to name your sources.

Ms Raymundo and Mr. Jaime castigate my column for making Miss Abad appear a "raucous, power-tripping demagogue" and a "totalitarian monster." In her defense, they say that she is "no less than the president of the UP Academic Union" and that "we happen to know that a considerable number of students enrolled in that class regard her as ironic, witty and sophisticated."

That Miss Abad is considered by some as a person who is ironic, witty and sophisticated is not the issue. Neither is the fact she has done much for the university. The debate is not on personality; it is on ideas.

I understand that Ms Raymundo and Mr. Jaime share Professor Abad's ideologies. That is why I find it unfair for them to claim that I painted her as a "totalitarian monster" when, in fact, I merely restated her points. It is Ms Raymundo and Mr. Jaime who are saying that Miss Abad's statements made her appear "totalitarian," not I.

Second, Ms Raymundo and Mr. Jaime misrepresent my argument for relativism as a "demand that one should remain silent before others whose point of view contradicts one's own."

I have nothing against free speech and public discourse, which is precisely why I'm an opinion columnist. My argument is not for silence, it is against ideological intolerance—in this case, prejudice against means of public involvement other than activism. It is one thing to believe in a principle, it is another to absolutely condemn all who do not share the same ideology, especially when the one who condemns is in the academe.

However, when her accusation goes so far as to say my analysis condones the Ku Klux Klan and all other such ideological extremists because I'm open-mined, I draw the line. I believe in tolerance, but there are exceptions that exist outside certain norms that most of the world stand for. That is why genocide is considered a war crime, terrorism is condemned, torture is relegated to a dirty secret, and people are jailed for murder.

Third, they condemn my appreciation of the support that private corporations give to society. They say the private firms' motives are questionable, and their gesture is simply a "strategy of containment used by global monopoly capital." Even charities and organizations like Gawad Kalinga did not escape censure from the two.

I concede there are repressive corporations, in the same way as there are bad doctors and lawyers. Even so, whether the corporations' motives are altruistic or purely commercial, they do not detract from the benefits derived from acts of generosity.

Ms Raymundo and Mr. Jaime speak as if only they have the right to dictate the motives of individuals. I will not presume the motivations of activists, but I know this much: they believe they are improving society by dedicating their lives to activism. In a way, by giving up something of themselves, they too are performing some form of charity. I respect them for that.

But corporations, also have to move within the same society we do. Why then is the idea that they can be motivated by a desire to better society inconceivable? NGOs and charity organizations do the same thing—especially since they prove themselves to be particularly effective. This brings us back to my argument: there is no single standard for the "right" way to be involved.

Fourth and finally, Ms Raymundo and Mr. Jaime construe the column as an attack on activism. It is not. It is an attack on intolerance, in the context of activism. I believe and respect activists and their contribution to society. Neither do I close the possibility of ever choosing their way. In Cancun, the "mobilization" stopped the imposition of autocratic regulations on the Third World. In 1986, the Edsa People Power brought down a dictatorship. In Czechoslovakia, civil disobedience caused the peaceful overthrow of a communist government. In all these instances, activism effectively brought tangible change.

I like to think that being an activist does not imply an absolute condemnation of everyone else who isn't. I know several, and I have come to respect them, as friends, as teachers, and as individuals who are willing to strive for a cause within a hopeless society.

The reason I believe extremism—whether religious, social, or racial—is dangerous is that all who profess it believe they can make no mistake. Open-mindedness for extremists is not a virtue; it is a fault. When that happens, debate is futile.

I appreciate the interest and the time that Ms Raymundo and Mr. Jaime took with my article. I've always thought my beliefs were strong; it's only now that I have to fight for them that I can honestly say they are.

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*Editor* **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

# WTO meeting in Hong Kong

GLOBAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING 148 COUNTRIES WILL START IN Hong Kong on Dec. 13 under the auspices of the World Trade Organization. The six-day meeting seeks to break a stalemate over how to cut agricultural subsidies and proceed with trade liberalization that was proposed at the Doha Round of talks in 2001.

The meeting will discuss the "July package," which includes the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) and Nonagricultural Market Access (Nama).

Nama is an agreement for binding and reducing tariffs not only on industrial goods but also on products such as fish and fishery products, shoes, toys, jewelry and almost anything outside the AoA's coverage.

Member countries rejected a draft called the "Derbez Text," which had provisions for tariff binding and tariff reduction for Nama, at the Cancun WTO ministerial conference in 2003. Negotiations on Nama, however, were resurrected through the July framework in 2004.

A nongovernment organization fears that Nama would adversely affect the livelihood of Filipino fisherfolk because it would lead to the influx of cheap imported fish products into the country. Nama is aimed at lowering tariffs on foreign fish products until they reach zero.

Farmers in poor countries cannot compete because their counterparts in rich countries get nearly $1 billion a day in subsidies.

## Let industry adjust to foreign competition

**By Peter Favila**

THE PHILIPPINES HAS TWO OBJECTIVES in Hong Kong. First, trade rules should provide genuine market access for Philippine exports. Second, the policy space allowing domestic industry to adjust to foreign competition must be preserved.

These objectives must be accommodated by the draft ministerial text. Pascal Lamy, director general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), issued on Nov. 30 a draft ministerial text for the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference to be held on Dec. 13-18.

In an informal meeting of heads of delegation in Geneva, Lamy presented the text, which clarifies that it does not represent an agreement overall and is without prejudice to any delegation's position on any issue.

The draft text refers to work undertaken by the chairs of the negotiating bodies. The text states that in some cases consultations have produced inputs for the present draft, which are either fully agreed upon or reflect a high level of convergence.

### Differences

However, in most other areas the text reflects a lower level of convergence. In some areas where important substantive differences persist, the draft merely attaches reports by the relevant chairs, on their own responsibility, setting the situation as it currently exists.

In the areas of agriculture and Nonagricultural Market Access (Nama or industrial tariffs), the draft text notes that much work remains to be done to establish modalities for further liberalization and suggests that the ministerial conference agree on target dates on such modalities and the submission of the schedules of commitments.

On services, the draft text states a determination to intensify negotiations on the basis of objectives and approaches in one of the annexes. There is no consensus on the annex, which is one of the most contentious issues.

In other areas, negotiating mandates are merely reconfirmed and call for intensified negotiations e.g., in WTO Rules, TRIPS (Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights), Environment Trade Facilitation, Dispute Settlement, Special and Differential Treatment, Implementation and other issues.

### Philippine delegation

While the lack of consensus in many negotiating issues may eventually mean a downgrading of ambitions for Hong Kong, the draft text strongly reaffirms the original mandates and objectives of the Doha Development Agenda that is targeted to be completed by end-2006.

I will lead the Philippine delegation, which includes officials from the Department of Trade and Industry and other agencies. The delegation is finalizing preparations for the Hong Kong meeting.

Geneva-based officials have also arrived in Manila to assist in this final process. Trade agriculture and other government officials met with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Nov. 30 to clear the approaches the country will take at the Hong Kong ministerial meeting.

The Technical Committees on WTO and on Tariff-Related Matters (under the Cabinet Tariff-Related Matters Committee) both of which are chaired by Trade Senior Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino, met on Nov. 29 prior to the President's briefing.

*(Favila is the trade secretary.)*

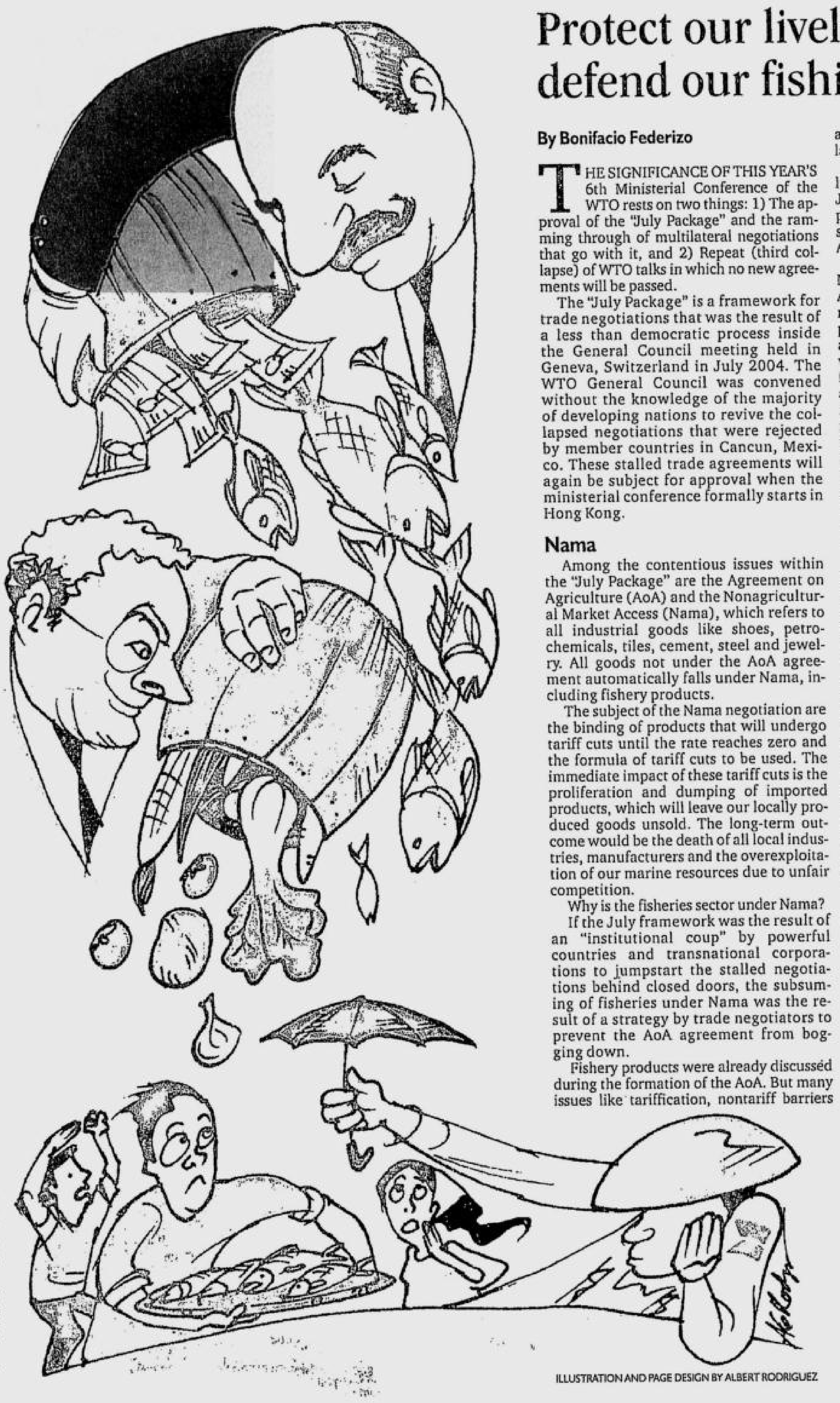

ILLUSTRATION AND PAGE DESIGN BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

## Protect our livelihood, defend our fishing grounds

**By Bonifacio Federizo**

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS YEAR'S 6th Ministerial Conference of the WTO rests on two things: 1) The approval of the "July Package" and the ramming through of multilateral negotiations that go with it, and 2) Repeat (third collapse) of WTO talks in which no new agreements will be passed.

The "July Package" is a framework for trade negotiations that was the result of a less than democratic process inside the General Council meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2004. The WTO General Council was convened without the knowledge of the majority of developing nations to revive the collapsed negotiations that were rejected by member countries in Cancun, Mexico. These stalled trade agreements will again be subject for approval when the ministerial conference formally starts in Hong Kong.

### Nama

Among the contentious issues within the "July Package" are the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) and the Nonagricultural Market Access (Nama), which refers to all industrial goods like shoes, petrochemicals, tiles, cement, steel and jewelry. All goods not under the AoA agreement automatically falls under Nama, including fishery products.

The subject of the Nama negotiation are the binding of products that will undergo tariff cuts until the rate reaches zero and the formula of tariff cuts to be used. The immediate impact of these tariff cuts is the proliferation and dumping of imported products, which will leave our locally produced goods unsold. The long-term outcome would be the death of all local industries, manufacturers and the overexploitation of our marine resources due to unfair competition.

Why is the fisheries sector under Nama?

If the July framework was the result of an "institutional coup" by powerful countries and transnational corporations to jumpstart the stalled negotiations behind closed doors, the subsuming of fisheries under Nama was the result of a strategy by trade negotiators to prevent the AoA agreement from bogging down.

Fishery products were already discussed during the formation of the AoA. But many issues like tariffication, nontariff barriers and other concerns related to subsidies delayed the process.

The main interest of developed nations like the United States, European Union and Japan is to conclude the AoA as soon as possible. It was decided that the fisheries issue be a separate discussion and thus, the AoA was completed without fisheries.

Clearly, fish products were included in Nama to fast track the negotiations on AoA. To reduce the fishery sector to a mere commodity alongside industrial products is to ignore the fact that fish has a limited capacity to renew itself, and with implicit characteristics separate from manufactured goods. The Nama agreement also exposes the country's fishery sector to serious environmental repercussions because of its tendency to increase production to meet foreign demand. The tendency to overexploit marine resources will further strain marine resources to the point where food security is severely compromised.

### Market decline

In addition, the Nama agreement revolves around the issue of tariffs on goods from other countries. The Nama agreement aims for the complete liberalization in fisheries because it sets the gradual lowering of tariffs on foreign products until they reach zero.

A study by the Fisherfolk Movement-Philippines in Masinloc, Zambales has found that the entry of foreign fish products is one of the main reasons local fish products experience market decline. Competition becomes uneven because of the low tariffs on foreign products, resulting in fish imports that are cheaper than local fish products. Moreover, local sardine canneries now rely more on cheaper imported fish than on local fish, easing out local commercial fishers. This lack of market protection has made local fisheries industry weak.

### Subsidies

Another issue is market subsidies. While the WTO prohibits the giving of subsidies to "producers" of each member country as this would supposedly run counter to free trade, developed countries like the United States and European Union grant subsidies to their own producers. This way, their products become more competitive.

If the experience of Benguet vegetable farmers and Nueva Ecija onion farmers are to be studied, the flooding of cheaper, imported fish from developed countries would lead to loss of income by some two million fisherfolk and their families.

For small fisherfolk in the Southeast Asian region, the sixth ministerial meeting of the WTO is the venue for asserting our rights to land, labor and resources. We must engage government agencies in public debate over the inclusion of fisheries in the WTO negotiations particularly under Nama.

*(Bonifacio is the national chair of the Kilusang Mangingisda [Fisherfolk Movement-Philippines.])*

## Rebuild the nation's fences

**By Rene E. Ofreneo, Ph.D**

AS THE GOOD AMERICAN POET Robert Frost put it, "good fences make good neighbors." They are also essential in building strong economies.

Fences that are too high are a signal that one does not intend to do business with the outside world. They also nurture complacency and inefficiency among the protected sectors. Thus, in the early 1960s, when then President Diosdado Macapagal abandoned the rationing of the nation's foreign exchange earnings to "new and necessary industries" in favor of the International Monetary Fund's "decontrol" program and the establishment of uniform high tariff walls, the economy slowed down and the bullish local industry turned anemic.

On the other hand, fences that are too low are an invitation for foreign conquest. Since 1980, when the country adopted a radical tariff reduction schedule under the IMF-World Bank's "structural adjustment program," imports of all types and sizes have flooded the archipelago, decimating many local industries. In the 1990s, tariff cuts were even deepened and reinforced by the country's liberalization commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Asean Free Trade Agreement.

The one-sided lowering of the nation's tariff fences, way ahead of China's, Thailand's and those of many developing countries, has been an unmitigated disaster. The Philippines has become a net agricultural importing country, incurring an agricultural trade deficit amounting to $1 billion a year.

### Food imports

Today, the country is importing virtually all its food requirements—rice, corn, poultry, livestock, vegetables, spices, wine, dairy products, sugar, confectionary, fruits, juices, cooking oil, flour and so on. The sterling performance of export pineapple, banana and mango cannot make up for the general weakening of over 90 percent of agriculture and the steady decline of rural incomes in the last two decades.

As to industry, the sector has failed to expand despite the proliferation of electronic and auto assembly plants in Regions 3, 4 and 6. This is due to the ensuing collapse of the domestic producers of shoes, rubber, textiles, plastics, ceramic tiles, steel, electrical appliances, vehicles and so on. Even some multinationals such as Colgate and Johnson and Johnson have found it more attractive to dismantle their local manufacturing facilities and shift to import-and-distribute business. Overall, the Philippines is de-industrializing, while the rest of East Asia is rapidly industrializing.

The above developments have been aggravated by the bizarre way by which the laws on WTO valuation and safeguards have been interpreted and implemented, abetting technical smuggling and tilting the field against local producers.

Imports are valued on the mere say-so of the importers, who pay low tariff and VAT tax, e.g., a pair of shoes valued at only P50 and paying less than P10 worth of duties and VAT.

### Supreme Court

As to safeguards, this is allowed under the WTO. And yet, the Supreme Court, in a double-barreled attack against the home producers, sustained two debatable lower court rulings: 1) Removing the authority of the trade and agriculture secretaries to impose safeguard tariffs without a positive finding by the low-level Tariff Commission, and 2) Affirming an importer's prerogative to seek a temporary restraining order against a safeguard order on the issue of constitutionality.

The Philippines is the only WTO member country, which has managed to clip its own power to impose safeguards against injurious imports.

What then should be done?

It is clear that one major task for the Filipino advocates of fair and just trade is to mount a battle for an equitable global economic order on both the home and international fronts.

### Challenge

In Hong Kong, the challenge is how to resist the demand of the developed countries to demolish the remaining tariff fences and restrictions protecting the economies of developing countries, while pushing for reforms in the unfair trade practices of the developed countries and for recognition of the right of developing countries to craft trade policies on the basis of their own development priorities.

The Department of Agriculture is at least trying to do something, by joining the global demand for developed countries to phase out the latter's trade-distorting subsidies of $1 billion a day and by pushing for the right of developing countries to have special products that can be covered by more flexible tariff measures and special safeguard mechanisms.

Unfortunately, the government has no similar initiative for industry. It is not clear what its stand is on the demand of the United States and the European Union for developing countries to open up their industrial (including fishery) and service sectors wholesale.

Of course, the developed countries have no problem demanding deep tariff reductions for their economies already enjoy high levels of protection—high technological fences (through intellectual property rights), high product and phyto-sanitary standards (which weed out unwanted imports such as what Australia is doing to our fruits), government's industry assistance (subsidies, R & D, marketing support, etc.), advanced physical and social infrastructure, and political will in enforcing global trade rules (such as imposing safeguards on surging imports and sending back imports with questionable valuation).

In contrast, the country's problems are very basic—how to summon the will to admit past liberalization mistakes and how to forge a national consensus on rebuilding the nation's fences and putting industry, agriculture and domestic employment back on the growth path.

*(Ofreneo is the executive director of the Fair Trade Alliance.)*

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# Muslim, Catholic heads back peace

COTABATO CITY—MEMBERS OF THE INFLUENTIAL Bishops-Ulama Conference have reiterated full support to ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"We pray that they will reach a negotiated peace agreement as soon as possible. We beg Allah to bless all the members of the two panels as well as the sponsoring governments of Malaysia, Libya and other Muslim States," said Mahid Mutilan, Ulama League president.

"We hope and pray that the genuine Islamic and Christian values, which we share in common, will inspire every provision of the peace pact," Mutilan, also former vice governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, added.

The Bishops-Ulama Conference recently held its 27th General Assembly in Malaybalay City.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol also reiterated his offer for development cooperation between the provincial government and the MILF in the former disputed 22,000-hectare Buliok Complex in Pikit town.

In June this year, Piñol offered help to the MILF in the building of roads in the complex by assigning rebel combatants to guard the equipment of the province. He also proposed the establishment of a model agricultural farm in the same area.

"We are willing to extend technical assistance to our Muslim brothers in MILF areas should they decide to venture into rubber, oil palm, coconut or banana farming," said Piñol, a known former critic of the rebel group.

Eid Kabalu, MILF's spokesperson, said the governor's offer has been forwarded to the Bangsamoro Development Agency.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza also said the confidence in the success of the talks has reached its highest level. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**TERROR TRAINING**

REUTERS

**Philippine Navy Seals frisk a mock enemy during a board and search exercise with their Malaysian counterparts at the Majini pier in Zamboanga City, Dec. 7, 2005. The Philippines and Malaysia are on a joint maritime exercise to strengthen each other's capabilities to effectively fight terrorism in the region.**

# Plan to stop child labor starts in Negros

DUMAGUETE CITY—A PROJECT TO eliminate child labor in six areas in Negros Oriental, where exploitation of child workers is known to be rampant, will be implemented by a Church-run foundation here.

Msgr. Merlin T. Logronio, president of the Goretti Foundation Inc. run by the Diocese of Dumaguete, said the project, to be financed by the International Labor Organization-International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC), will take education and livelihood as the main steps to eliminate child labor in the province.

The ILO-IPEC has provided P4.1 million for the project that will be implemented in the towns of Sta. Catalina, Siaton, Bindoy, Ayungon and Mabinay and Bais City, Logronio said.

Logronio said cases of child labor abound in these five towns and city as shown by the results of an earlier survey conducted by Silliman University.

He said child laborers in these places are commonly found in sugar cane plantations, in households as domestic laborers and in fishing vessels as deep-sea divers.

Logronio said the target of the year-long project are the more than 1,000 child laborers in the six towns and city and another more than 1,000 children from the same places who could become child laborers.

He said aside from the livelihood component of the project, the undertaking will focus also on ensuring that child laborers to go back to school and those who have difficulty in pursuing formal education will be encouraged to go into vocational courses.

Jess Macasil, ILO-IPEC field coordinator, said aside from the financial support his agency is extending to the project, it will also provide technical assistance to the project.

He also said while the funding for the project is a grant from ILO-IPEC, the livelihood component should not be a dole out. *Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# RP farmers hardest hit by free trade deals, pacts, says Ibon

LUCENA CITY—FILIPINO FARMERS WERE the ones hardest hit by unfair trade impositions of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the independent think-tank Ibon Foundation said in a statement.

Ibon noted that imported vegetables had flooded the local market since the country became a member of the WTO in 1995.

"From 42,000 metric tons in 1995, vegetable importation had grown 174 percent to 115,000 metric tons by 2000, five years after the country's accession to the WTO," Ibon added.

The group said onion imports climbed sharply from only 50 metric tons (MT) in 1995 to 8,160 MT in 2004.

Similarly, garlic imports had also skyrocketed from almost none in 1991-1994 to 23,130 metric tons last year, Ibon claimed.

"Because they were heavily subsidized and were able to enter the country almost tax-free, these imports could be sold more cheaply than local produce, which received virtually no support from the government. Market prices thus became distorted," it said.

The Geneva-based WTO, the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations through various agreements, negotiated and signed by at least 148 member-countries.

Ibon estimated that some 1.8 million farmers had lost their livelihood since the country became a member of the WTO.

"Local farmers' incomes are falling. Pre-WTO garlic and onion farmers earned between P40,000 to P100,000 per hectare. After the country became a member of the multilateral trade group, earnings of onion and garlic farmers fell by 60 percent and 80 percent, respectively," it reported.

Ibon called on the government not to allow the further liberalization of the agricultural sector at the WTO 6th Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong next week.

It urged the government to reverse liberalization by raising tariffs in order to protect the country's farmers from the influx of imports.

Dr. Carol Pagaduan-Araullo, Resist WTO and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair, said the Hong Kong meeting would be used by superpower governments led by the United States to push for 100-percent liberalization in agriculture and other areas of the economy.

She predicted that millions of workers would lose their jobs, millions of farmers would lose their livelihood and more domestic industries would close shop. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# DFA exec dismissed over ₱8,000

**By Jolene R. Bulambot**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN in the Visayas has dismissed an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs for extorting P8,000 from a passport applicant in July.

Jackel Ebdalin Zulita, head of the Research and Investigation Group of the DFA Regional Consular Office here, was found administratively guilty for grave misconduct.

Visayas Ombudsman Director Edgar Canton yesterday ordered DFA regional director Angel Espiritu to implement in 10 days the dismissal order, it being already final and executory.

Zulita is also facing graft charges at the regional trial court here.

Canton said Zulita was caught in an entrapment operation and had tested positive of the fluorescent powder put on the marked money he extorted from the passport applicant.

Agents from the National Bureau of Investigation arrested Zulita last July 13 in an entrapment operation conducted inside the DFA office based on a complaint lodged by Remedious Dunlap, a resident of Bohol.

Dunlap sought the assistance of NBI after Zulita demanded P8,000 from her to facilitate the immediate release of her passport.

Canton said the text messages between the complainant and Zulita bolstered the robbery-extortion case filed by the NBI against the DFA official as it contained Zulita's demands for money from Dunlap.

Zulita had denied the allegations. He also argued that his arrest was illegal as it was done without a warrant. He added that the NBI agents did not have personal knowledge that a crime was allegedly committed as they were not inside the closed conference room where he and Dunlap met.

Based on the argument that his arrest and the entrapment operation were both illegal, Zulita said all pieces of evidence seized by the NBI should be deemed inadmissible.

But the Ombudsman, in an order dated Nov. 9, 2005, ruled that while it was true that the NBI agents could not see what was transpiring inside the room, the NBI was able to confirm that a crime had just been committed when Dunlap, after emerging from the room, gave the pre-arranged signal signifying that Zulita had accepted the alleged bribe money.

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# Muslim kids enjoy business' kindness

**By Rolando B. Pinsoy**
*Marawi City*

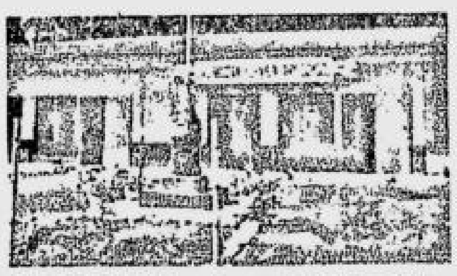
VIRTUALLY ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, fourth year student Nassiyam Ombawa of Balindong National High School wonders how transistor radios receive signals.

TEACHER of Balindong

Radio is the most common source of information from the world beyond his hometown in Balindong, a municipality composed of 36 barangays that sits on the shore of Lake Lanao. Only a few households own television sets and electricity is not always available in this part of Lanao del Sur which, ironically, is the main source of electricity in the whole island of Mindanao.

His teachers also have difficulty coming up with the simplest and most easily understood scientific answers. These hardly satisfied his curiosity.

It was only made clear to Nassiyam how his transistor radio is able to receive sound signals after he read it from the books donated to their science laboratory. Thus, during the first ever Science and Math Exhibit in the Schools Division in Lanao del Sur, Nassiyam and six of his classmates presented a Standing Wave Generator model using softdrink straws, garter, rubber and pushpins.


LITTLE Red Schoolhouse in Calimodan Primary School

"I saw this model in the book and I thought of presenting this to the exhibit so other students can also understand how sound is transmitted to the transistor radios," Nassiyam explained.

Other students presented their various science projects like recycled newspapers formed into a Human Skeletal Model, collection of herbal plants, drawings of the division of cells, glue made of gasoline and styrofoam, among others.

"With these laboratory equipment, students are now interested in Science subjects. Before, what we got during lectures were blank stares from our students. They did not even understand why it is not safe to drink water from unclean sources like canals and Lake Lanao," said science teacher Ropaina Panggaga.

"Students are already adept in using the five microscopes in their laboratory. They get to see what microbes look like," she added.

When they try to familiarize themselves with the human anatomy, they study a model they call "Mr. Tan," which they named after the donor, former ambassador to Germany, Bienvenido Tan Jr., who is also the chair of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

"We are now more inspired to teach since we can already see how the students learn using these equipment and hopefully improve the quality of graduates we produce," said Panggaga, who, along with the other teachers, had to shell out their personal money to buy laboratory equipment before.

## Little Red Schoolhouse

In the nearby village of Malaig, just a few meters from Lake Lanao, stands a newly constructed three-classroom schoolhouse where 142 pupils are now comfortable holding classes everyday.

This is far more conducive from the dimly-lit, poorly ventilated and cramped one-room private house which the three teachers of Calimodan Primary School used to rent allocating P500 each from their salary. The classroom was also used as a Madrasah classroom.

This "Little Red Schoolhouse" is a project of Coca Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc. The parents of the pupils provided labor in the construction of the classroom as their counterpart for the project.

## Livelihood for parents

The Tugaya Elementary School suffers a yearly three percent dropout rate because parents cannot sustain their education out of their meager income from farming, fishing and crafts-making which averages P2,500 per month for a family of eight.

While most of the male community members are working, the women are left idle.

A PUPIL in the Little Red Schoolhouse in Calimodan Primary School

Daimela Pacalna, 47, a single mother of 11 children, said the economic opportunity has enabled her to support her children's elementary education as well as their daily subsistence.

Since she has learned dressmaking, she now earns an average of P400 a week from the dress shop and bakeshop livelihood project of the Parents-Teachers Community Association (PTCA) of Tugaya Elementary School. The Japanese Embassy provided a school building while the PBSP assisted by providing technical knowledge, sewing machines and bakery equipment to the 50 members of the PTCA in Tugaya.

BALINDONG High School students use the donated microscopes.

At present, orders of dresses and bed sheets that come from other villages and from Marawi City now keep the women busy. The bakery business is also brisk since all of the community members patronize their products. Tugaya has a population of about 20,000.

"My six children in elementary will not drop out school anymore. They [used to be] ashamed to go to school because they did not have uniforms and notebooks," said Pacalna.

She sews her children's uniforms herself.

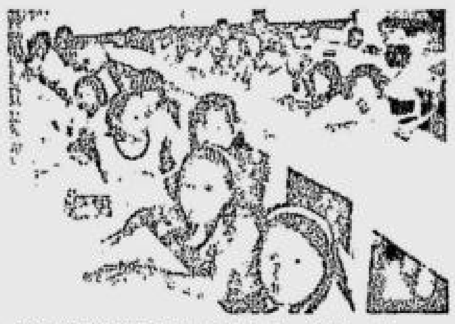
After a year of operation, the livelihood project has a net profit of P20,000. The initial capital was P15,000 with each parent sharing P200. This, they acquired despite the fact that the women could only work for two to three days a week depending on the availability of electricity.

By next year, from the earnings of the livelihood project, the PTCA is planning to offer scholarships to the top five graduating pupils for their high school education.

"This will encourage the students to study and hopefully lower the dropout rate to less than one percent," said PTCA president Subida Calauto.

## More donations needed

But these are just very few of the villages in Marawi that benefited from private donations.


STUDENTS of the Little Red Schoolhouse in Calimodan Primary School
PHOTOS COURTESY OF PBSP

THE BAKERY livelihood project of Tugaya PTCA

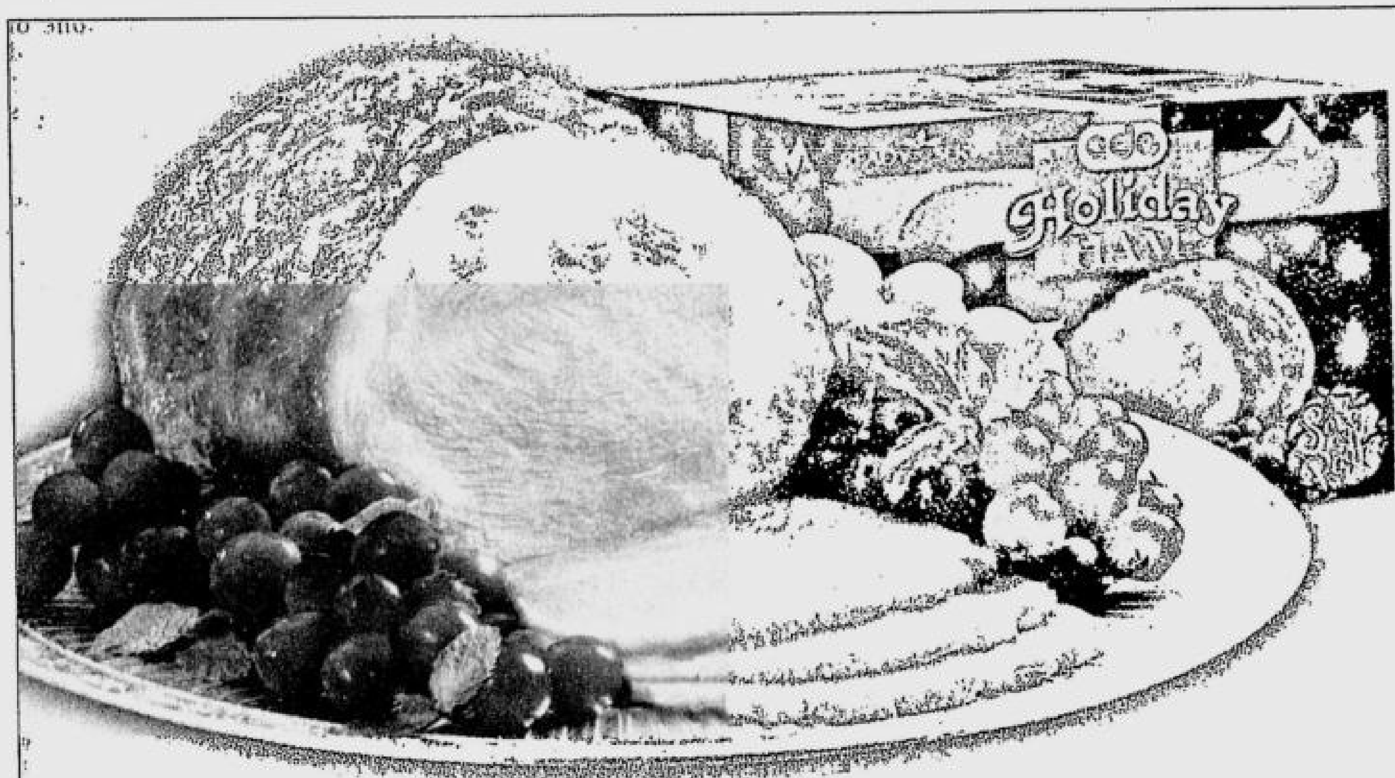
The pupils of Banggulo Elementary School are holding classes in about 20 rented houses, mostly in poor condition, located in Marawi city proper.

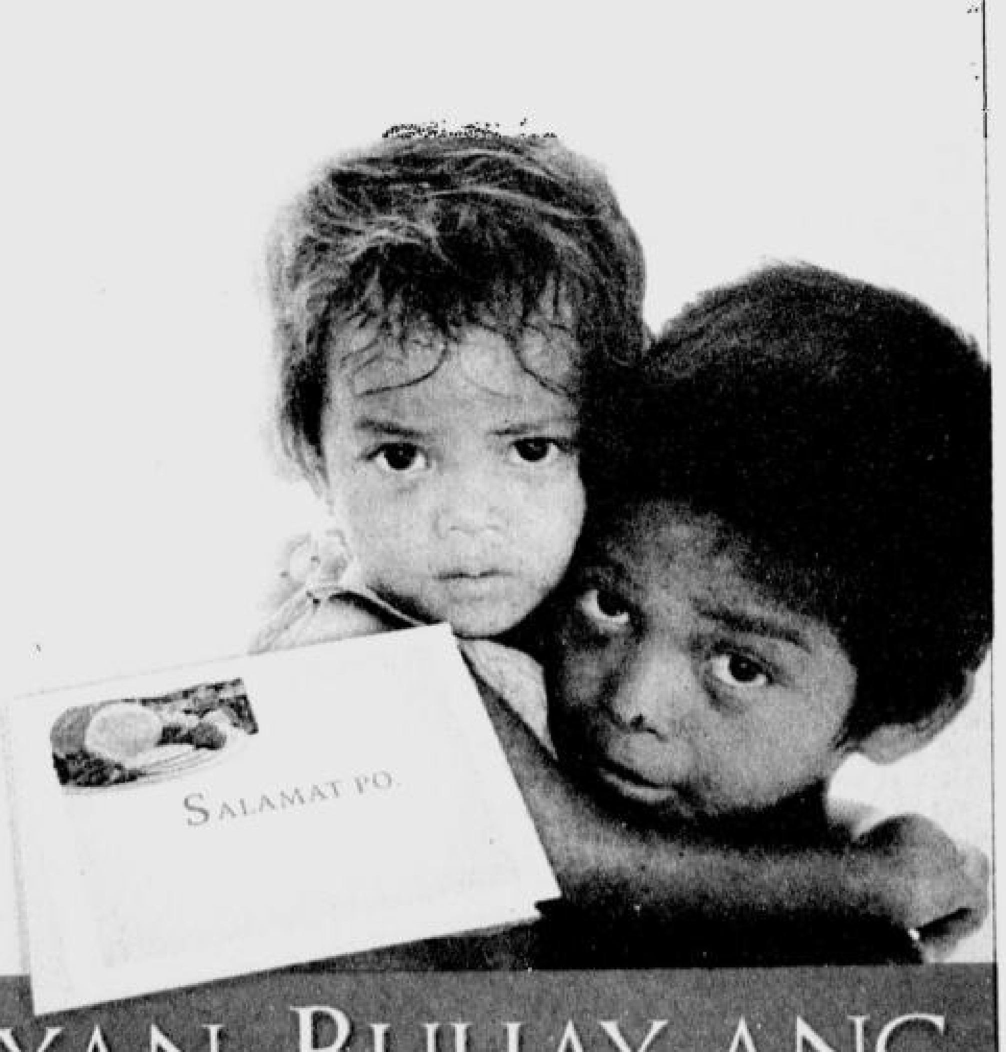
This somehow depicts the general state of education in Marawi and Lanao del Sur where it is not surprising that the yearly test results show that the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) gets a very dismal passing rate.

The Department of Education in school year 2000-2001 ranked Lanao del Sur lowest in the survival rate at the elementary level while Marawi City is ranked fourth to the lowest. In the same school year, ARMM had 23 percent dropout rate, the highest in the country.

The school, which has existed since 1952, is still waiting for the kindness of private businesses and individuals to assist them in providing permanent and conducive classrooms for the children.

If fortunate, this would likely happen as Banggulo Elementary School has been shortlisted to become one of the beneficiaries of the future projects of PSBP.





HANDA MONG CDO HOLIDAY HAM,
HANDA SA KANILANG KINABUKASAN.

Sa pagdiriwang natin ng Pasko, alalahanin natin ang mga batang nagugutom. Tulungan natin sila sa pamamagitan ng pagbili ng CDO Holiday Ham. Sa bawa't CDO Holiday Ham na bibilhin mo, ang 5 piso ay mapupunta sa GABAY BUHAY project na nagsusulong ng programang nutrisyon para sa mga kapuspalad na batang dumaranas ng matinding gutom.

Kailangan nila ngayo'y laman ng tiyan upang lumakas ang kanilang katawan at tumalas ang isipan ng sa gayon ay lumaki silang kapaki-pakinabang sa ating lipunan. Kaya ang handa mong CDO Holiday Ham ngayong Pasko ay paghahanda rin sa kanilang kinabukasan.

Para sa karagdagang katanungan, tumawag sa 294-1111 lokals 220 at 230 o 291-1599.

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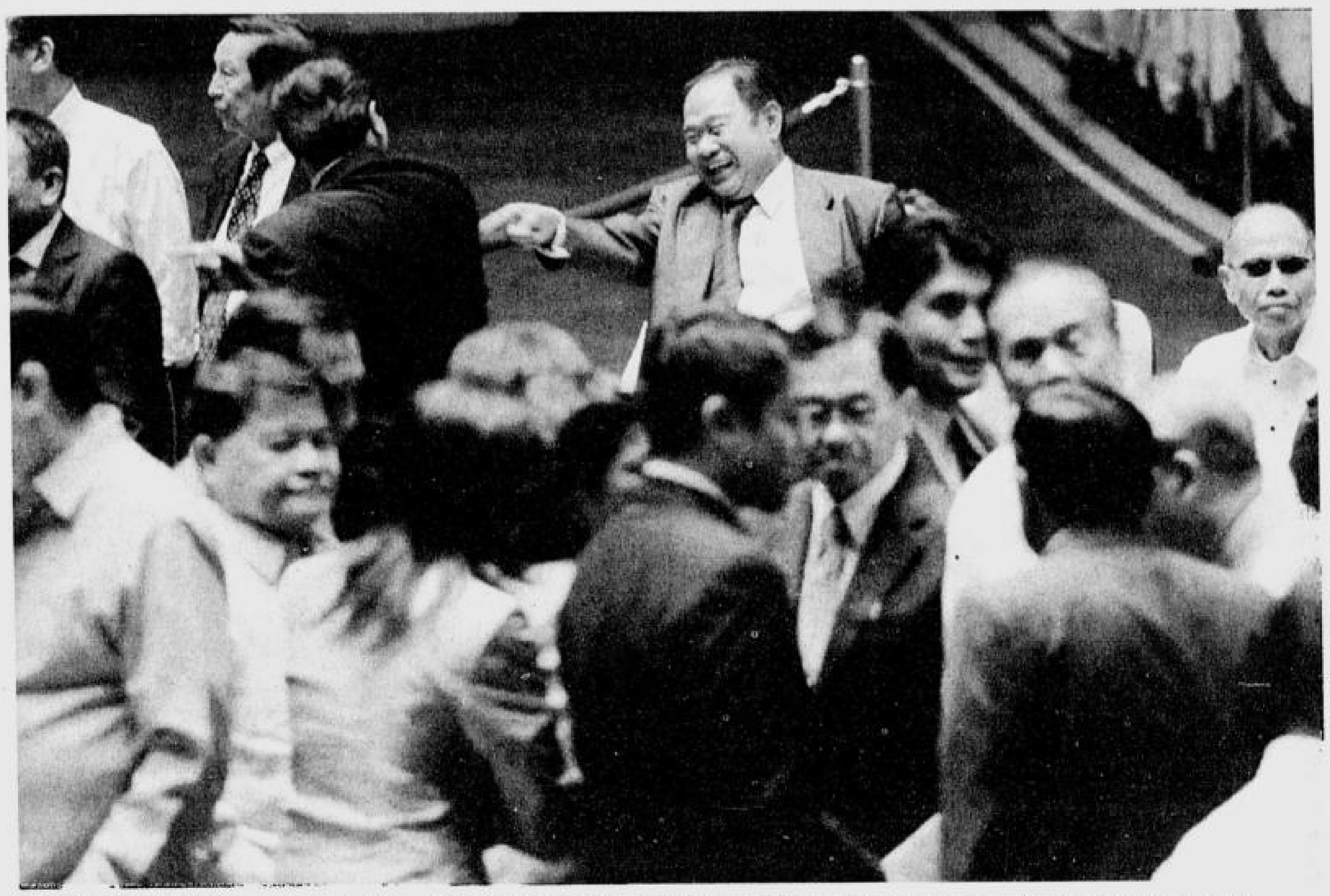
BIGYAN BUHAY ANG PAGMAMAHAL

# AFP: No talk on GMA-Garcillano wiretap



**AMONG FRIENDS:** Former Comelec Commissioner Garcillano felt right at home in the House where he was the resource person last Wednesday in the investigation of his wiretapped chats with his phone pals, including President Arroyo, during and after the May 2004 elections.

EDWIN BACASMAS

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ordered the wiretapping.

"Isn't there an investigation already going on?" Kison shot back.

Kison said Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo also had no comment on the matter.

Six months after the "Hello Garci" scandal erupted and almost toppled the Arroyo presidency, the military continues to evade the wiretapping issue through blanket denials and lately, silence.

### It was Garci's phone

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon warned the current Senate inquiry into the wiretaps might lead to the presidential doorstep.

Biazon, in an interview, pointed out that it was Ms Arroyo who was benefiting from her Executive Order No. 464 barring military officials from testifying in Senate hearings without her clearance.

A previous INQUIRER special report clarified that it was not Ms Arroyo's phone that was bugged but Garcillano's.

The military official who spoke to the INQUIRER yesterday said he did not know who gave the wiretap order, "if there was such an order."

The officer admitted that the AFP had not ordered its intelligence service, or Isafp, to investigate the MIG 21 unit which allegedly carried out the bugging, despite a video confession by one of its men, T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, that he was part of a 14-man team that conducted the wiretap in 2004.

Santos' testimony corroborated Doble's own video statement in which he admitted that 14 men were involved with technical monitoring before, during and after the May 2004 elections.

The officer, who holds a responsible position in one of the units at Camp Aguinaldo, also denied claims by Doble's girlfriend, Marietta Santos, that the wiretapping was done in the "blue room" of the MIG 21 building.

"That's too good to be true. There is no such blue room," he said, pointing out that visitors are not allowed to enter areas while "actual operations are ongoing."

### Beerhouse talk

He said Santos might have been referring to the "receiving room" of MIG 21, or the open kiosk in the middle of a manmade lagoon, where Isafp personnel can entertain visitors.

"Nothing but beerhouse talk," the official said of Santos' testimony before the Senate that Doble told her 14 operatives had been involved in the wiretapping.

The officer claimed the AFP was capable of "tapping landlines but not cellular phones." He said wiretaps were done against terrorists and other suspected criminals, and only after a court order had been obtained.

"The authority is only to eavesdrop, but not to use the tape in court. The tapes have no value," he said.

### Keep GMA out

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye tried to distance Ms Arroyo from the controversy.

"The bottom line for Malacañang is the question of whether the President won the election. In her view, this question has already been answered. In her view, she won the elections and she did not cheat to win," Bunye said in a radio interview.

Bunye said the investigating panels in both chambers of Congress were only looking for "minor details" and creating a "distraction" for the President.

"Let the issues raised in the investigation be resolved by the investigating bodies themselves. The President has more important things to take care of that have a bigger impact on the lives of our countrymen," Bunye said.

While there have been lingering doubts about Ms Arroyo's poll victory, Bunye said the reasons for the presidential win were crystal clear.

"She had a superior program than her opponents and her opponents had fought among themselves instead of cooperating with each other. The President's allies all worked together and they won by a landslide and carried along the President," Bunye said.

### No charges vs Doble

The top brass has also not subjected Doble to any disciplinary action for allegedly turning over the tapes to the political opposition.

Observers said placing Doble under investigation would confirm that wiretapping took place.

AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J-2) Rear Admiral Tirso Danga, who was Isafp chief when the alleged wiretapping took place, had quickly cleared Isafp of involvement.

Danga even declared that Isafp had no wiretapping capability, a statement that was met with amusement by longtime defense reporters and several retired Isafp chiefs to whom Danga had given a tour of the intelligence office to show off its new equipment.

### Endanger public safety

An administration ally in Congress warned that cutting the Isafp budget would have serious security repercussions.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra said that the threat of senators to cut the Isafp budget if military officials continued to stonewall on the investigation into the "Hello Garci" tapes was "death by budgetary strangulation" and would "endanger public safety and national security."

"We have an Air Force without planes and now the Senate wants a military without an intelligence group? What will they think of next, a Navy without gunboats?" Mitra said. *With a report from Juliet Javellana and Philip Tubeza*

# Rex Robles: Wiretap ordered, cleared by highest authority

**By Norman Bordadora**

A RETIRED ARMED FORCES INtelligence officer yesterday said the wiretapping of the supposed phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former poll official Virgilio Garcillano must have been authorized by the "highest authority."

Former Navy Commodore Rex Robles told the INQUIRER that if it were indeed Ms Arroyo and Garcillano on the controversial tapes, the Chief Executive must have been too trusting of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Isafp was rather careless with its voice records.

"It's difficult to imagine such a wiretapping activity at so high a level not to be cleared with the highest authority," Robles said. "Certainly, such operation has to be cleared not just by the chief of the Isafp or the Armed Forces chief of staff."

If indeed the Palace had authorized the wiretap, Robles said the President must have been so trusting of the Isafp that she became indiscreet in her conversations.

"If it were indeed the President, she could have just called Garci and then asked him how he was, told him to meet her at this time and place and so on. If she just said only those things, would anyone say there was something amiss with her conversations with Garci?" Robles said.

He said that then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and then Isafp chief Danga would have been so circumspect that they would not allow such an operation without clearance from the "highest authority."

### Serious blunder

Robles said that had it indeed been the Isafp that bugged Garcillano and then caught Ms Arroyo on tape when she called, some members of the military's intelligence organization must have committed a serious blunder in not erasing the President's voice when she was recorded.

"If the girlfriend of one of the operatives can be allowed to come and go within the compound of the Isafp, it's possible that other cases of carelessness have been committed by members of the Isafp," Robles said.

# Ka Roger on purge: We've corrected our mistakes

**By Norman Bordadora**

COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE Philippines spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal confirmed that Rogel Navarro was a victim of a party purge in southern Tagalog.

In a telephone interview, Rosal also said that the two people Navarro linked to the purge—which was dubbed Operation Missing Link (OPML)—were not party leaders but were indeed instruments of the purge that claimed the lives of many cadres in 1988.

Rosal said he knew Navarro as Pamboy from San Pablo, Laguna.

### Errors corrected

"It's sad that they are once again bringing up this issue to put the party in a bad light in the wake of the forthcoming anniversary (of the CPP). Everything regarding this matter has already been answered by the party," Rosal said.

He also said: "We have addressed these concerns in many party statements and in our previous interviews. These matters have been corrected and those involved have already been given disciplinary actions."

Rosal also confirmed that the pair named by Navarro left the movement without being subjected to any disciplinary action.

"These persons started out as well-meaning members of the party. What they were doing was what they truly thought was for the welfare of the movement," Rosal said.

"They left perhaps out of fear. But some of the comrades know where they are," he added.

### Telling the families

Rosal denied Navarro's claims that purge survivors were made to lie to the families of those who died in the purge.

"There's a party policy in that regard and, in fact, I was one of those tasked to explain to the families of the victims and talk even to the survivors about what really happened," Rosal said.

Rosal also said he saw Navarro and Francis Robert Garcia under guerrilla detention. He added that even he received disciplinary action as a result of errors in the purge.

Rosal said the leaders of the OPML had been meted out severe sanctions.

# Son of Red purge victims learns parents killed by comrades

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the purge in southern Tagalog, called Oplan Missing Link, in 1988. The group plans to file criminal charges against those who took part in the torture and the killings.

### Killers identified

Purge survivors Francis Robert Garcia and Rogel Navarro identified two of the leaders of the CPP group which supposedly tortured them.

Navarro said the two were among those who fled the underground movement after Oplan Missing Link, which claimed the lives of innocent members, proved to be a mistake.

Despite the error, no punishment was meted out on the two by the party leadership, he said.

"While many suffer, one of them is living the life in Makati," Navarro said, saying the man was now an executive of a Makati company and using a different name.

Speaking at the Kapihan sa Newsdesk news forum in Quezon City, Navarro said: "It's about time that they are made to answer for their wrongful actions."

The INQUIRER withheld the names of the pair until it had gotten their side of the story. One of them was mentioned in an INQUIRER series on the party purges published in 2003. Navarro was one of the unidentified sources quoted in the stories.

### Newspaper photo

Navarro said he came to know that one of the two men was working in Makati when he saw the man's picture in a newspaper.

"It was just by accident that we came upon his picture," he said.

According to Garcia, the Makati man headed Oplan Missing Link in southern Tagalog. The other man was a leader of the torturers and now lives somewhere in Navotas, said Garcia.

Navarro said one party leader subjected him to verbal abuse during his detention, telling him: "How could you? You're a traitor."

Navarro said that, when it turned out later that he had been falsely accused, the man told him how sorry he was for the ordeal Navarro went through.

Garcia and Navarro said they also saw guerrilla commander Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal and then party spokesperson Zenaida Soriano together with other guerrilla leaders in the rebel camp where they (Navarro and Garcia) were detained. *(See related story on this page.)*

Navarro said he tried to convince Soriano of his innocence, and she cried. Later, Navarro said he was scolded for "poisoning [her] mind."

### Charges vs specific persons

"We'd like to file specific cases against specific persons, not the organization. Otherwise, people would just say we're engaging in politics," Navarro said when asked if they also planned to file charges against party luminaries.

Navarro said that after spending a good part of 1988 under detention, after being tortured and witnessing executions, he was cleared by the party of allegations of espionage in December 1988.

Navarro said he did not stay in the party long enough to witness its split in the early 1990s.

He said the party leadership tried to make him and the others tell the families of purge victims that the military was behind the deaths of their loved ones.

"(I told them) if that's your policy, you do it yourselves," Navarro said.

Navarro said that he had spent a good time of his life looking for the families of those killed in the purge to tell them what really happened.

### 66 executed

"We're still trying to convince the families of the victims to file charges," Garcia said.

In the southern Tagalog purge, 66 party cadres were killed while 46, including himself and Garcia, survived, said Navarro.

"We know it's not going to be easy. There would be questions of whether or not some of those killed were indeed killed," Navarro said.

### In their foosteps

Weng Libre said that when he was in college at the University of Southeastern Philippines in Davao City, he joined the Kabataang Makabayan and became chair of the Anakbayan militant youth group in the area.

"I thought it would be good to continue the struggle participated in by my parents ... For 20 years, my parents disappeared. When I saw them, they were reduced to bones, killed by their comrades," Weng said.

Asked if he had recovered from the trauma of knowing, Weng said: "No."

# Filipina ...

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life-saving treatment because doctors told her it would kill the child, regional daily the Northern Echo reported.

The 37-year-old, who lived near Stockton-on-Tees, northeast England, with her British partner, Adam Taylor, survived long enough to see the birth of their son, Nathan.

But soon after seeing him baptized, she was transferred to a hospice where she died about a week later.

### Funds needed for RP burial

Priest Alan Sheridan is spearheading an appeal to raise 3,700 pounds (P347,816) to repatriate Mimura's body to the Philippines for burial. Money left over will help her other three children from a first marriage.

The priest said he hopes the Philippine government would help with a grant to fly the three youngsters from Britain for the ceremony.

"Being a Catholic, abortion for her was out of the question," Taylor told the newspaper. "It was a tough decision but we could not give up on Nathan."

The youngster—now four-months-old—was premature but was born fit and healthy.

The baby, whose mother was given a mild form of chemotherapy to suppress her breast cancer, had to be induced after she developed complications.

Father Sheridan, who performed the baptism, said: "Bernadette said the most important thing was the birth of her baby and she would not do anything to harm him. Having an abortion was never a consideration. I know she talked it over with Adam and because she was a Catholic, there was no way she would have done it."

He added: "She had to judge which life was more important and she just prayed there would be a cure for cancer." *AFP*

# Rough sailing for RP fishermen in WTO HK meet

From page A1

ters will be finalizing the consensus points in the ongoing talks on agriculture, industry, services, intellectual property rights and other trade-related concerns under the WTO's Doha Development Round.

## 15 fishery giants

The United States and the European Union, which count among the world's 15 fishery giants, are expected to push together for an agreement on Nama and services at the WTO even as their positions on agricultural trade remain irreconcilable.

Manuel Teehankee, the country's permanent representative to the WTO, said the EU is not expected to change its position on export subsidies and declaration of sensitive products, while the US is not likely to make any concessions without the EU budging on agricultural issues.

Hence, the two could focus on the Nama and services issues, Teehankee told advisers and sectoral representatives at a briefing with Task Force WAAR on Dec. 5.

## RP position

Task Force WAAR (WTO Agreement on Agriculture Renegotiation) is a consultative body composed of nongovernment farmers and fisherfolk groups which is working with the government to hammer out the country's position in the WTO trade talks.

"(There is) a question of inter-linkages between the level of ambition in agriculture and other areas of negotiations," Teehankee said of the US and EU positions at the WTO talks.

Products under Nama comprise about 90 percent of global trade. These include apparel, cement, toys, auto parts, chemicals, electronics, footwear, forest products, gems and jewelry, pharmaceutical and medical raw materials, sporting goods, textile and fisheries.

The fisheries sector is a major source of food and livelihood in the Philippines , where about 900 coastal municipalities depend mainly on small-scale fishing.

The fisheries sector is under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture but fisheries products are being negotiated by the Department of Trade and Industry in the WTO because of their Nama classification.

About 40 percent of tariff lines in the Philippine Nama remain "unbound," that is, they are not committed to any tariff reduction under current WTO rules.

Fish and fish products represent 45 percent of these unbound tariff lines.

There is, however, a move by several developed countries in the WTO to open up markets by imposing further tariff reductions on all but five percent of industries under the Nama. If adopted, this would leave only 281 tariff lines unbound in the Philippine Nama.

## Maximum tariff levels

For the fisheries sector, this would mean the Philippines committing to maximum tariff levels for its fishery products, leaving it with little flexibility in deciding its own tariff levels.

Fisherfolk and activist groups want the government to fight against this, saying this was a distortion of trade as unsubsidized fishermen in developing countries are unfairly pitted against the highly subsidized fisheries sectors of the rich countries.

The Kilusang Mangingisda (Fisherfolk Movement-Philippines) and Tambuyog Development Center have been lobbying with the trade department to fight for tariff re-calibration, domestic subsidies for artisanal fishermen, and the maintenance of unbound tariff lines in fishery products at the WTO.

(According to the definition of the Southeast Asian group of fishing countries, artisanal fishermen are those using boats running on 18hp and below, gill nets, hook and line and spear gun and who fish mainly for subsistence. Only the excess from their own food requirements are sold to the market.)

## Can't compete

WAG KAMING
ISANGLA SA BANYAGA
WTO
REJECT
ATS & NAMA
KAMAMATAYAN
APL
SINK or SHRINK WTO
APL

**AN IMMODEST PROPOSAL:** Protesters at the Department of Trade and Industry reject a proposal on the agenda of the World Trade Organization Dec. 13-18 ministerial conference in Hong Kong to allow non-agriculture market access into developing countries.

ERIK ARAZAS

"We can hardly compete with commercial fishers here. If you add the global fishing giants with their fleet, the local fisheries sector will die," said KM chair Bonifacio Federizo.

"What's at stake here is our livelihood, the education of our children, the house that we rent. If the average income of fishers go down any further, there will really be no hope left for us," he said.

With lower tariffs, cheaper imported fish and fish products would flood Philippine markets. Imports from countries with highly subsidized fisheries would easily displace local fish products because of their artificially cheap "production" cost.

Japan subsidizes its fisheries sector to the tune of $2.9 billion annually, the EU $992 million, the US $863 million and China $700 million.

The DTI's WTO Fish Task Force has recommended that 88 tariff lines of domestically produced fish and fish products be included in the 281 unbound lines, but the Board of Investments alone said its industries would eat up the majority, if not the entire five percent flexibility under the Nama proposal.

"We expect a neck-to-neck competition between the DA and DTI in the selection and identification of these products," the WTO Fish Task Force said in a Nov. 25 memorandum.

It said the country should negotiate for more than five percent flexibility so that all sensitive products can be accommodated.

## Flexibilities

Edgardo Abon, who chairs the DTI Tariff Commission as well as being a member of the Philippine negotiating team to the WTO, said the team would work to maximize the flexibilities in the Nama proposal.

He refused to say, however, if the team would adopt the WTO Fish Task Force's recommendation to include the 88 tariff lines in fish products in the projected 281 unbound tariff lines.

"We are going there (Hong Kong) to negotiate and look after our national interests. That is prime," he said.

Fisherman Sumalpong is hoping the Philippines will survive the rough sailing in the Nama negotiations to preserve its fisheries sector.

"When out at sea, we only had to deal with nature's forces before. If you include WTO as a force to deal with now, we might not make it. Everything depends on what happens there (Hong Kong)," he said.

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# Another RP militant detained in HK

ANOTHER FILIPINO MILITANT en route to join protests against the World Trade Organization conference was detained for about four hours by immigration and police authorities at the Hong Kong airport yesterday.

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, was repeatedly questioned about his purpose for visiting the former British colony.

According to KMP public information officer Carl Ala, Ramos was with six other KMP members but was the only one held for questioning at the airport.

KMP counsel Jobert Pahilga assisted Ramos during his four-hour detention, Ala said.

KMP and its allied organization Pamalakaya said Ramos and his party arrived in Hong Kong at about 10 a.m. yesterday.

They said Ramos was held after an immigration officer checked something in a document and then called three other immigration officers to talk to him. Ramos was then led away to a holding room.

Ramos was reportedly asked where he was staying and if he had enough money for his planned eight-day stay.

Ramos admitted that he was in Hong Kong to participate in the protests against the WTO conference. He reportedly even showed the authorities some of the posters and anti-WTO documents that he had brought with him.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said Ramos even lectured the immigration officers on the evils of unfair trade brought about by liberalization and globalization policies.

After the immigration officers were done with Ramos, members of the Hong Kong police took their turn asking him the same questions.

Ramos was released at around 1 p.m.

Early last week, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair Carol Araullo and other militants were similarly held and questioned by Hong Kong authorities.

*Norman Bordadora*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Sunday, December 11, 2005

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
ABC
Iba Tayo!
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez

ClickTheCity.com
For more TV schedules [illegible]

| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABC 5 | | Ringside TV | | PBA | | | | | | | | | | Shall We Dance? | | Cruise-Mas Carol | | | |
| ABS-CBN 2 | A.S.A.P Fanatics | | Pinoy Big Brother Buzz | | The Buzz | | | | Goin' Bulilit | | Search For A Star In A Million | Rated K | | TV Patrol World | Pinoy Big Brother | Sunday Family Cinema | | | |
| AXN | | Rollerball | | | | E Buzz | Mondo Magic | AXN Shakedown | | Ultimate Guinness World Records | Ultimate Guinness World Records | Numb3rs (Season I) | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4) | | CSI: NY (Season II) | | CSI: Miami (Season 3) | |
| Cartoon Network | X-Men Evolution | Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles | Xiaolin Showdown | Tom & Jerry Show | | Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends | | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Teen Titans | Samurai Jack | The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee | Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends | | Dexter's Laboratory | Crush Gear Nitro | Power Rangers Ninja Storm | Superman | Harvey Birdman (11:15PM) | Mission Hill |
| Cinema One | | | | Cool Dudes | | | | My First Romance | | | | Dreamboy | | | | Pinoy Pie | | | |
| Cinemax | | | Dead in the Water (3:45 PM) | | | An Officer And A Gentleman | | | | | Hard To Kill (7:25 PM) | | | Trois 3: The Escort | | | Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story | | |
| CNN | International Correspondents | World News | The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live | | World News | Talk Asia | World News | The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition | World News | Main Sail | World News | World Sport | Global Challenges | CNN Business Traveller | Talk Asia | Next@CNN |
| Discovery Channel | | Mostly True Stories | | American Chopper | | Ultimates | | | | Hour Asia | | Cathay Pacific Signature Series | | | | | | Power Zone | |
| Disney Channel | Recess | Totally Spies | Lizzie Mcguire | Brandy & Mr. Whiskers | Lilo & Stitch | Totally Spies | Mr Bean | Phil Of The Future | Suite Life Of Zack And Cody | That's So Raven | Wonderful World Of Disney | | | Mr Bean | America's Funniest Home Video | Phil Of The Future | Even Stevens | Wonderful World Of Disney | |
| ESPN | | | Pool: Snooker World Pool League '05 Poland | | Table Tennis '05 Killerspin | Boxing Series Friday Night Fights | | | | Atlantic Coast Conf. Basketball: St Louis Vs N Carolina | | Sportscenter Asia | | Acc / Big Ten Chal. Minnesota Vs Maryland | | | | Pro Billiards 2005 Men's World Summit of Pool | |
| ETC | Will & Grace | Saturday Night Live | | Veronica Mars | | American Dreams | | One Tree Hill | | Queer Eye For The Straight Guy | | Average Joe | | Rated Oh! | The Insider Weekend | Meet My Folks | | ET Weekend | |
| EWTN | Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe | Angelus (3:15 PM) | The Donut Man | Adventures In Odyssey | Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer | Rosary With Mother Angelica | Octavia Dies | Rome Reports | EWTN Bookmark | EWTN Global Showcase | | Onward Pilgrims | Mirror Of The Soul | Sunday Mass (SAP) Live | | | Life Is Worth Living | The Abundant Life | |
| Fox News | | Beltway Boys | Fox News Watch | Fox Report Saturday | | Heartland With John Kasich | | Big Story Weekend Edition | | Beltway Boys | Fox News Watch | Fox & Friends Sunday | | | | | | Fox News Live | |
| GMA 7 | Gigsters | Love To Love | | S-Files | | | | Mahiwagang Baul | | Starstruck 3 | | Moi & Joey | | All Star K | | Daddy Di Do Du | | Sunday Night Box Office | |
| Hallmark Channel | The Nanny III | The Peacekeeper Wars | | | | The Peacekeeper Wars | | | | Mike Bassett: England Manager | | | | To The Ends Of The Earth | | | Midsomer Murders: Destroying Angel | | |
| HBO | | | Epoch: Evolution | | | Soccer Dog: European Cup (5:15 PM) | | | Street Fighter - The Ultimate Battle (6:45 PM) | | | | The School Of Rock | | | | 21 Grams (10:20PM) | | |
| IBC 13 | | EZ Shop | | EZ Shop | Mr. Taxman | Home Shopping Network | | Home Shopping Network | | Japan Video Topics | | Billiards | | TBA | | Iyo Ang Katarungan | EL SHADDAI | | |
| JackTV | | Reno 911 | Blue Collar TV | X-Play | Sweat | Street Smart | The Sib Show | Hip Hop Nation | Ride With Funk Master Flex | WWE Afterburn | | WWE Smackdown | | | | South Park | The Man Show | Insomniac W/ Dave Attell | Beat The Geeks |
| Lifestyle Network | Date With Design | Ground Rules | Outer Spaces | Your Private Island | Breathing Room | Back To Basics | Barefoot Contessa | Everyday Italian | Ciao America With Mario | B. Smith Holiday Style | | The Next Wave | | Final Cut | | | | Clean House | |
| MTV Philippines | Mush | | Laguna Beach | MTV Cribs | Wade Robson Project | Viva La Bam | Pimp My Ride | Get Hitch'd | MTV Screen | The 70's House | Spring Break | MTV Presents | | | | Whatever Things | MTV Hits | Essential VH1 | |
| MYX | | Pinoy MYX Countdown | | | | Take 5 | MYX Bandarito | MYX News | Star MYX | MYXILOG | Pop MYX | MYX Presents | | MYX Hit Chart | | | | MYX Backtrax | OPM MYX |
| National Geographic | | Amazing Moments | | The Other Final | | Science Of Football | | Top 5 | | Wow! | | About Asia/ No Borders: Longest River | | Nat Geographic Specials: End Of The Week Earth In Review | | Treasure Fleet: The Adventures Of Zheng He | | | |
| NBN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Sea Games | | | | | |
| Nickelodeon | Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide | Unfabulous | Naturally Sadie | Romeo | Drake & Josh | Zoey 101 | Avatar: The Last Airbender | Danny Phantom | My Life As A Teenage Robot | 1, 2, 3 | The Fairly Odd Parents | Four Eyes | Zoey 101 | Unfabulous | Girls In Love | Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide | Four Eyes | The Wild Thornberrys | The Brothers Garcia |
| PBO | | | Strict Ang Parents Ko | | | | Tumbasan Mo Ng Buhay | | | | Fight Night 2 | | | | One Heart | | | | Bosa |
| Ctv | | Baywalk | | Joan Of Arcadia | | Ginang Fashionista | | Ang Pinaka... | | Pop Star Kids | | May Trabaho Ka | | Sunday Super Sine | | | | MINT (Music Interactive) | |
| RPN 9 | | Golf Power | Auto Extreme | Fistorama | | JAG | | JAG | | Navy Ncis | | Without A Trace | | NBA On RPN | | | | Sure Hits | The Working President |
| SBN 21 | | New Life TV Shopping | | Buhay Pinoy | | Shepherds Voice | | EZ Shop | | | | Oras Ng Himala | | Oras na Katotohanan | | Gabay At Akayon | | SBN Sing Along | |
| Solar Sports | | FIVB World Champs Cup Men's Event: Ita Vs Egy | | | | Denmark Open Men's Singles SF | | GWS Ep 50-2005 | NBA Jam | NBA Game: Lakers Vs Timberwolves | | | | | 2nd PHIL-9 Ball | | | | |
| Sports Plus | | | | | Get A Grip On Golf | Slipstream | | World Poker Tour ep 4 Costa Rica | | | | Raceworld | | BD Spring Break Cancun | BD California | Travel World Chair. Presented By Countrywide D3 | | | |
| Star Movies | Bicentennial Man (2:45 PM) | | | | | Bruce Almighty (4:55 PM) | Me, Myself and Irene (5:35 PM) | | | | Opening Night | Catch That Kid | | | Master And Commander: The Far Side Of The World | | | | |
| Star World | | The Apprentice/ John Lennon: Working Class Hero | | Tru Calling | | Business Week Asia | Travel Asia | Smallville | | The Simpsons | Kumars At 42 | Oprah Prime Time | | Koffee With Karan | | The Robinsons/ The Nighty Night | Human Remains | The Simpsons | Oprah Prime Time |
| Studio 23 | | | | | | | | Nginiig | | Y Speak | | Joey | Living With Fran | Will & Grace | F | [illegible] (10:15PM) | Chefs On The Go (10:45PM) | | Buffy The Vampire Slayer |

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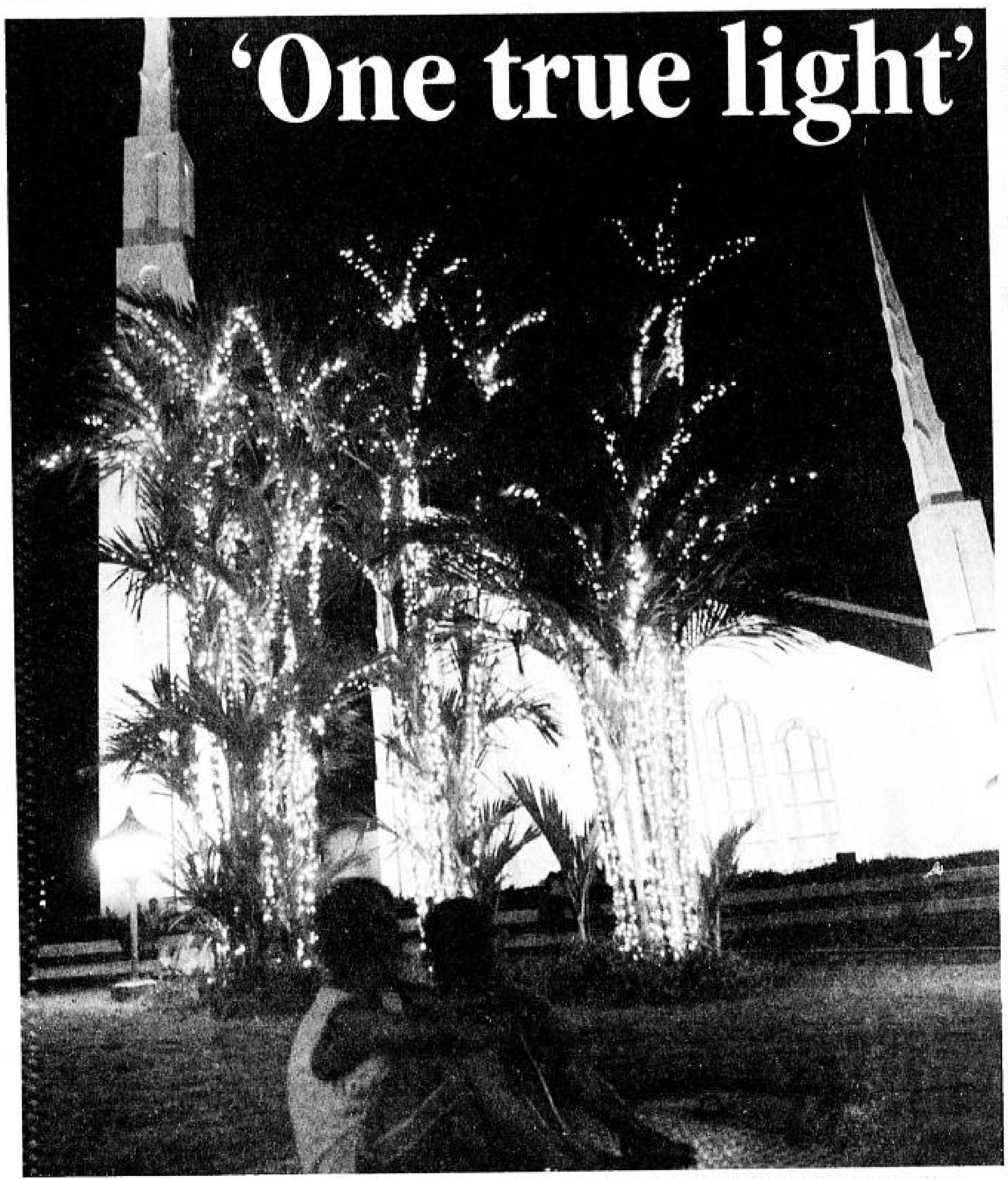
# 'One true light' shines in city



THE LIGHTS at the Manila Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Quezon City are all aglow, providing a welcome distraction for weary passersby. EDWIN BACASMAS

**By DJ Yap**

FROM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY, BETWEEN 6 and 10 p.m., a magnificent sight reveals itself in the posh White Plains subdivision in Quezon City.

The famous Christmas lights of the Manila Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints are once again aglitter, lending splendor to an otherwise humdrum Yuletide season amid the country's economic and political woes.

Some 360,000 lights in the colors of Christmas—gold, green, red and blue—decorate the trees and shrubbery around the majestic Latter-Day Saints (LDS) temple. In front of the church stands a life-sized Nativity scene created by painter-sculptor Toym De Leon Imao, with the figures of Mary and Joseph attending to baby Jesus in a manger.

"Just looking at the lights and décor make us forget our troubles, and reminds us that it's Christmas," said Elder Michael John Teh of Area Seventy, one of the local church leaders.

### Jesus, the Light of the World

Visited by an estimated 30,000 people every Yuletide season, the display of lights is meant to symbolize the one true "Light of the World," or Jesus Christ, he said.

"In the Scriptures, the Lord is referred to as the Light of the World. We correlated that with this season when we celebrate the birth of Christ," Teh told the INQUIRER.

Unlike Christmases past, fewer decorations have been put up in neighborhoods this year, an apparent sign of economic difficulties, he observed. "Even among the more affluent, you'll notice that there are fewer Christmas lights," he added.

### A sight to lift the spirits

But when one visits the LDS Temple, one can simply stand back, enjoy the sight, and forget one's troubles, however momentarily, Teh said.

The temple has been a regular Christmas attraction in the city since 1984 when it was first built.

Each year, the design is different: "A contractor draws up design proposals, then shows it to the Church leaders for approval," Teh said. However, Imao's Nativity artwork has been a regular feature for the past four to five years, he added.

The church turned on the lights in mid-November. They will be lit for four hours each night until the end of December.

Even non-members of the church are invited to visit the temple grounds to see the grand spectacle of lights and colors.

Through the display, the temple hopes to encourage Filipinos "to come closer to the One True Light of this troubled world, who is Jesus Christ, whose birth we commemorate this season," said Elder Remus Villarete of the Church's Area Presidency, its highest governing body in the country.

### A source of refuge

Covering a sprawling area blanketed by greenery and dotted with palm trees, the Manila Temple is one of 122 operating LDS temples in the world. It can be distinguished by its towering spires stretching toward the heavens.

LDS, also known as "Mormons," believe that a temple is literally the "House of the Lord;" thus, only faithful members of the church may enter the building after its dedication.

When they do, they change into simple ceremonial garments before performing church duties. Inside, members learn about the purpose of life and forge covenants to serve Jesus Christ and their fellowmen and women.

"The temple is a source of refuge from the wiles and worries of the world," said Elder Edgardo Fernando, another church leader.

"With all the economic and political troubles hounding us, being inside the temple... gives one a feeling of comfort and peace," he said.

## METROBRIEFS

### Another victim surfaces

ANOTHER complainant against alleged con artist Danilo Estrada surfaced at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) last Tuesday, days after the suspect was arrested for duping businesswoman Elizabeth Palad of P3.1 million last October. Cynthia Yrreverre, 44, of St. Charbel, Executive Village, filed a complaint for syndicated estafa against Estrada and six of his cohorts after they successfully made off with her P6 million. Estrada's other accomplices, Koji Hashimoto or Koji Hapon, Eliseo Caoling or Elly Caosing, Gilda Pasibigan or Gilda dela Rosa, an alias Matsuda Hapon, and two other unidentified suspects remain at large. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

### No rest for cops

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

POLICE work is a round-the-clock job, even on weekends. The Makati Police Department (MPD) issued this reminder last week to its men at the station headquarters, after observing that most unit offices were usually closed for the weekend. "It has been observed that during Saturdays and Sundays, some offices of this station are closed and sometimes manned only by civilian employees," said a memorandum from the MPD administrative section. The memo was issued by MPD police chief Senior Supt. Marieto Valerio on Nov. 29, just a few days after he took over the post. "Chiefs of offices and units are hereby directed to maintain a skeletal force of duty officers in their respective offices and attend to and receive important concerns," Valerio said. Copies of the memo, signed by administrative section chief, Senior Insp. Annie Bodanio, were distributed to the station's investigation and administrative units "for strict compliance." *Tarra V. Quismundo*

### Crackdown on 'tiangges'

WITH more shoppers going to '*tiangges*' instead of department stores, a Makati City official has reminded flea market owners to legitimize their operations. "We welcome all kinds of businesses in the city but that doesn't mean that we would allow them to operate without the necessary business permits," said Joey Salgado, chief of the Makati Information and Community Relations Department. Inspection teams from the City Administrator's Office have shut down some 100 business establishments from January to November in Makati, mostly *tiangges* that were found to be illegally operating. The team had inspected around 1,770 business establishments in the city, 349 of which just opened. "The process is simple. They just have to apply for the mayor's permit and then pay less than P1,000 which is already good for a year. They just need to comply with existing regulations," said Salgado. He added that businesses which operate illegally mean lost revenues for the city government. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

### Screaming guard saves the day

THREE armed men were forced to make a hasty getaway on Friday when the security guard of the pawnshop they were robbing screamed loudly, attracting the attention of passersby in Caloocan City. "The loud scream of the guard distracted the suspects which made them abandon their plan and decide to immediately leave the area," Chief Insp. Jose Valencia, of the City's Investigation Unit, said. Valencia said the suspects were not able to steal the earnings of the J. M. Pawnshop although they managed to make off with the employees' cellular phones, bags, jewelry and an undetermined amount of money. PO2 Julian Chavez said a Honda motorcycle without license plates was found parked not far from the establishment. It was believed to have been used by one of the suspects. The police are now trying to identify the owner of the motorcycle. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

# NBI cracks down on pirated software

**By Tina G. Santos**

AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation (NBI) on Friday raided three Internet cafés using unlicensed Microsoft software and seized 32 computers worth over P1 million.

Raided were the Jacctags Computer Service Center on Anonas Street, in Kamias, Quezon City, and two branches of the Archisoft PC-911 Sales and Services, one on Kamias Street, and the other at the second level of the Northmall in Rizal Avenue, Caloocan City.

NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) chief Jose Justo Yap said the confiscated desktop computers contained unauthorized reproductions of unlicensed Microsoft software like Windows XP.

Yap said the raids were prompted by a complaint filed by the Business Software Alliance (BSA), the organization of computer software manufacturers.

Copyright infringement charges are being readied against the owners of the Internet café shops, he added.

The raids were conducted after the moratorium given by the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team on the use of unlicensed software expired last September. The anti-piracy team, composed of the NBI, the Optical Media Board, and the Philippine National Police, had given businesses using pirated computer programs 30 days to buy authorized software before they began a series of raids last Sept. 16.

The BSA and the anti-piracy team had earlier said the losses due to software piracy amounted to P3.7 billion in 2004.

# Safety tips for fire-free holidays

**By Jocelyn R. Uy**

USE ONLY QUALITY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS and turn them off before you go to bed. Don't put up too many lights or this might cause an electrical overload. Never play with firecrackers inside the house.

These were some of the safety reminders Southern District Fire Marshal Sofia Mendoza had for the public to ensure a fire-free Christmas.

Mendoza said substandard Christmas lights should not be on anyone's shopping list this year as these are one of the major causes of fires during the holiday season.

This was echoed by Chief Insp. Mauricio Ramos of the fire district's public information service. "One must buy Christmas lights that are of good quality because those that are poorly made are a fire hazard," he told the INQUIRER.

### Look for seal of quality

To be safe, buyers should look for the seal showing that the product has passed Department of Trade and Industry standards, Mendoza said.

He reminded the public not to leave their lights on overnight and to keep them away from combustible materials to prevent overheating.

Meanwhile, Ramos asked the public not to buy firecrackers this holiday season. But if it cannot be avoided, go for firecrackers of high quality, he said.

Parents should tell their children not to play with matches and firecrackers, especially inside the house, he added.

According to the fire district, 327 fires which were reported last year in the southern part of the metropolis were due to electrical problems while 18 were caused by firecrackers.

**HARD AT PLAY**
A boy and his sister play beside a carnival on Edsa, Quezon City. With a few plastic bags, a makeshift shovel and their imagination, they turn the dusty road into their playground. If all children were just as easy to please, there would be no need for carnivals. JOAN BONDOC

# Metro cops to go on alert next week

**By Jocelyn R. Uy**

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION POLICE Office (NCRPO) will go on alert beginning next week to ensure that no terrorist attacks or untoward incidents occur in the metropolis during the holiday season.

In a command conference yesterday, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, NCRPO chief Director Vidal Querol, the directors of the different Metro police districts and other police officials drew up measures to protect the public following three bombing incidents and the strafing of a building owned by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo last week.

According to Querol, only two groups could be behind the attacks. "It could be the NPA (New People's Army) or the destabilizers who wish to topple the government," he said.

The incidents, he stressed, were done to dampen the spirit of Christmas and "we would not allow these destabilizers to steal away Christmas from the heart and home of every Filipino."

Reyes, on the other hand, said that reports attributing the attacks to government forces were "unfair and unfounded."

"Coup talks remain. But we would like to assure the public that we monitor the situation and we are confident that we could handle any situation," he stressed.

Beginning next week, the NCRPO, in coordination with the national police and the military, will intensify intelligence information gathering and beef up the defense of "soft" spots in the metropolis such as transport systems and oil depots, among others.

The police will also implement security measures in time for the start of the midnight mass or "Simbang Gabi," Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, NCRPO Intelligence chief, told the INQUIRER.

# Vendors banned in overpasses

**By Nancy C. Carvajal**

VENDORS SELLING THEIR WARES ON pedestrian overpasses and sidewalks will no longer be tolerated in Quezon City, according to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte.

"It is imperative that we bring back order along the city's main thoroughfares and not allow vendors to use them for their illegal activities," the mayor said in a statement issued yesterday.

BELMONTE

He ordered the city's Market Development and Administration Development offices to immediately clear pedestrian overpasses of vendors and demolish illegal structures on sidewalks.

The mayor, in particular, cited the overpasses along Manggahan and Litex Roads in Commonwealth.

The two structures, Belmonte said, "have virtually been transformed into vendors' homes." Cases of petty crimes such as robbery, and purse snatching have also gone up in overpasses, he added.

He asked the Quezon City Police District to prevent vendors from encroaching on the three-lane Commonwealth Avenue from Philcoa to Litex Road in Fairview, where traffic usually builds up during the Yuletide season.

Bonifacio and Samson Roads which are near the Balintawak public market will also be off limits to vendors, Belmonte added, as well as the sidewalks in Cubao and Aurora Boulevard.

The mayor, however, assured vendors that he has designated several sites where they can sell their goods without obstructing pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

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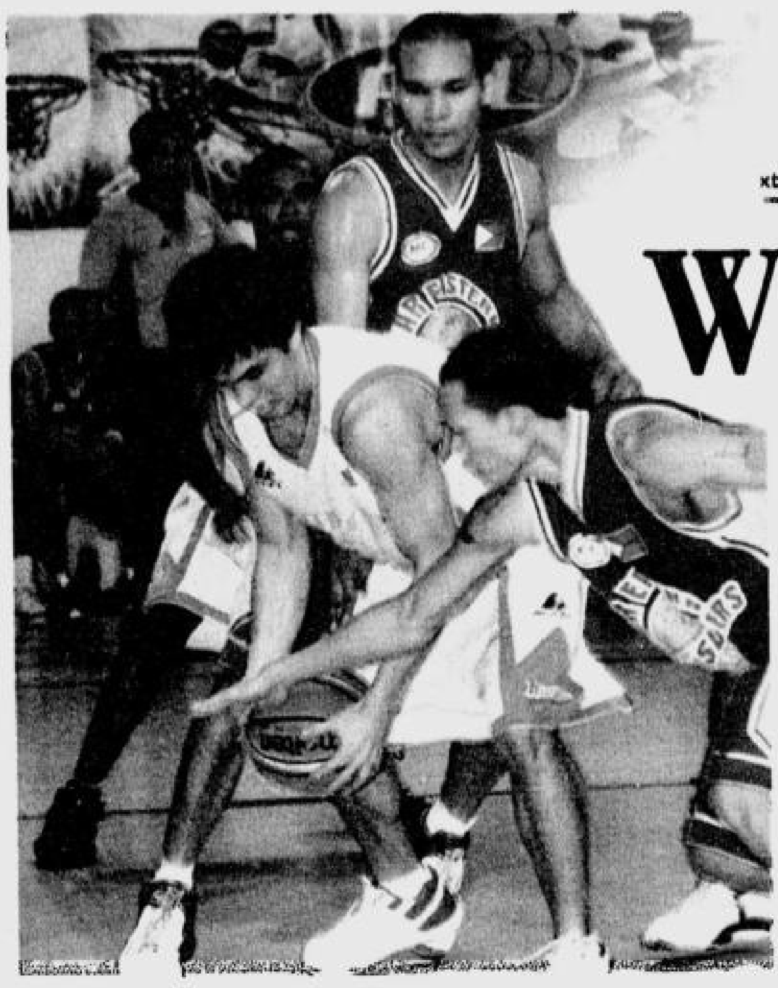

**MARK Yee of Far Eastern Insurance tries to get the ball away from Robert Sanz of Hapee. At the back is Latoreno.** AUGUST DELA CRUZ

# Wizards edge Tortillos

**GAMES TODAY** (*San Sebastian Cavite*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Montana
4 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Toyota Otis

**By Jasmine W. Payo**

**MAGNOLIA ICE CREAM, WITH its veterans showing their endgame flair, slipped past Granny Goose, 69-65, yesterday to keep its lead in the PBL Heroes Cup at the FEU Gym.**

Jeff Chan shot seven of his 11 points in the final quarter and Fil-Am sensation Kelly Williams scored a key putback to push the Wizards ahead, 67-65, in the last 12.3 seconds.

Former pro point guard Kim Valenzuela chipped in 10 points, while Williams shot eight.

But coach Koy Banal said the Wizards still have to regain their aggressive forms.

"We're still rusty after a two-week break," said Banal of the Wizards, who improved their record to 6-2 as they bounced back from stunning setback against league rookie Far Eastern Insurance last Thursday.

"We've been on top from the start of the tournament," added Banal. "I don't want to use the word complacent, but we've been kind of tight. So our battle cry for this tournament was just to bounce back."

Earlier, Hapee-PCU easily drubbed the Insurers, 91-79, as main Gabby Espinas, still recovering from a foot injury, pumped in 22 points to lead four Teethmasters in double figures.

"The bottom line is we just have to win," said Hapee-PCU coach Junel Baculi.

Hapee-PCU moved up to second place with Granny Goose at 4-3. The Insurers stayed at 2-5.

Led by Abby Santos and Dennis Concha, the Tortillos found their range early in the fourth quarter for a 60-53 advantage. But the Wizards responded with a 7-0 spurt capped by a Valenzuela three-pointer to tie the game at 60.

The Tortillos held on to a 63-62 edge before a Chan triple put the Wizards ahead, 65-63, with only 41.3 ticks left.

After Marvin Cruz knot the contest for the 13th time, 65-65, with two free throws, Williams, sealed the Wizards' triumph with a putback.

**The scores:**
**First Game**

**HAPEE-PCU 91**—Espinas 22, Misa 18, Castro 16, Sanz 10, Gonzales 8, Moreno 7, Razon 4, Solis 4, Cecilia 2.

**FAR EASTERN INS. 79**—Estrada 14, Guerrero 12, Marquez 9, Gatumbato 8, Latoreno 8, Coronel 8, Yee 8, Bonus 6, Gamboa 2, Sierra 2, Villamin 1, Bravo 1, Delgado 0.

**Quarters:** 21-13, 42-33, 60-52, 91-79

**Second Game**

**MAGNOLIA 69**—Chan 11, Valenzuela 10, Williams 8, Isip 8, Rizada 7, Misolas 6, Mangahas 6, Jones 5, Angeles 3, Santos 2, Co 2, Bombeo 1, Te 0.

**GRANNY GOOSE 65**—Grijaldo 15, Concha 12, Cruz 10, Santos 6, Alfad 4, Lanete 4, Latonio 3, Ibanes 3, Gavino 2, Pribhdas 2 , Saldaga 2, Almeda 2, Ferrer 0, David 0.

**Quarters:** 13-12, 23-31, 45-46, 69-65

# Air21 slips past Ginebra

GAMES TODAY (*Ynares Center*)
4:10 p.m.—Purefoods vs San Miguel Beer
6:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk N Text

**By June Navarro**

RANIDEL DE OCAMPO WAXED hot in the closing minutes as Air21 subdued Barangay Ginebra, 109-101, last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference On Tour at the Ormoc Superdome in Ormoc City.

De Ocampo accounted for nine of his team's last 12 points in the final two minutes and carried the Express to their seventh win in 13 games.

The defeat was the Kings' sixth in 13 outings.

De Ocampo picked up the cudgels when Shawn Daniels fouled out, hitting big shots from way out and challenging the Ginebra frontline in the shaded lane following a triple by Rodney Santos that brought Air21's lead down to 95-90.

De Ocampo actually authored a blistering run in the opening minutes of the payoff period, combining with Daniels and Wynne Arboleda to give the Express a commanding 91-77 spread.

Sean Lampley, Mark Caguioa and Santos then joined hands as the Kings, cheered on by a highly partisan crowd, chopped away at the enemy's lead.

Daniels paced the Express with 30 points while De Ocampo finished with 24 points, firing five triples on top of seven rebounds, one assist and a steal.

Meanwhile, San Miguel Beer resumes its bid to rise from the pits when the Beermen tackle the front-running Purefoods Chunkee Giants today at the Ynares Center.

Though still bringing up the rear in the standings, coach Jong Uichico and the Beermen (4-8) are now the hottest team in the league after racking up three straight victories, the last one coming at the expense of sister ballclub Coca-Cola.

On top with a 9-4 win-loss record, the Giants are hoping to bounce back from a loss to the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

The Phone Pals (7-5) clash with the Tigers in the other game with coach Joel Banal hoping to finish the eliminations either at second or at the top to secure an outright semifinal berth with four games left.

**The scores:**

**AIR21 109**—Daniels 30, R. De Ocampo 24, Ritualo 15, Ferriols 7, Arboleda 7, Y. De Ocampo 6, Tubid 4, Se 4, Dacia 4, Gonzales 2, Fran 2, Canaleta 2.

**GINEBRA 101**—Lampley 33, Caguioa 20, Santos 13, Helterbrand 12, Menk 9, Seigle 6, Adducul 4, Holper 3, Ferreria 1, Salvacion 0, Macapagal 0, Sotto 0.

**Quarters:** 24-17, 54-44, 78-71, 109-101

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| 77 | Vietnam |

# *Lafavilla: Lady of the Ring*

**REFEREE** Lafavilla in full control of action during the recent SEA Games boxing competition at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City. Right photo shows Lafavilla with children Akky, Arra and TJ. FE LAXAMANA

**By Fe Laxamana,** *Contributor*

THE FIRST TIME THE ONLY ASIAN lady amateur boxing referee who's also a judge, Marietta "Baby" C. Lafavilla, climbed the square ring, she drew guffaws all around.

She muses, "One of the things you do is to run the back of your palm over the boxer's genitals to check if he has a crotch guard. But I groped, frowned and shook my head saying *wala, wala. Mali pala ako.*"

Debut jitters inevitably got the Cebuana, an aficionado since childhood, a good dressing down from her trainers. *"Kulang na lang banlawan ka sa tindi ng sabon."* That was 1996 during the Cebu City Olympics, shortly after the then Southwestern U physical education instructor was sent to an Abap (Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines) three-day seminar.

Undeterred, she enrolled in seminars and officiated in weekly bouts in Cebu. "Mostly for the experience. You're assessed by Abap officials after a match. Criticism, good or bad, is a learning experience, a way of improving my craft," she stresses.

Baby, 51, who has a masters degree from the University of Cebu, Lapu-Lapu-Mandaue in PE, adds, "They expect much from you so you have to familiarize yourself with the rules and don't disrupt the flow of action between the boxers. Those regulations will also guide you and prepare you for the international level."

The diligence paid off. In 2001, at the First Asian Women's Boxing Association competitions in Bangkok, Thailand, Lafavilla scored well on the jurors' rating sheets and retained her status as referee/judge.

During the SEAG boxing championships in Bacolod recently, Baby, an Asosacion Internacionale Boxeo de Amateur member, frequently worked the bouts as judge and referee.

Tournament director and ABAP sec-gen Roger Fortaleza says Baby is "cooperative, accepts criticisms, and is serious about admitting and correcting her mistakes. Considering that she even had a two-year lay-off because of her teaching load, her comeback has been very satisfactory."

She was crushed though when she saw zeros next to her name in the SEAG jurors' ratings. A second look revealed, however, that those figures indicated the absence of errors. Actually, on the first two days of competition, she was No. 3 overall. On the third day, when she was interviewed, she made it to the top.

"*Pag nagkalat ka, Pilipinas ang nakataya.* I don't think of myself as a woman, only of the country I represent and how fair I've been with the boxers," Marietta says.

She thinks the lady pugs have a bright future. "They've obviously developed the right muscles and are getting the proper training. They've turned in four golds, didn't they? I hope those medals are just the beginning," beams the single parent.

Lafavilla has three children. TJ, 21, is a would-be engineer and twins, Akky and Arra, 19, are nursing juniors. She stresses, "I wouldn't have done it without scholarships from SWU and UCLA. I had this little piggery which my children help maintain but the Sto. Nino surely didn't let me down."

# Empire King eyes back-to-back win

**EMPIRE KING GETS A CHANCE to join the list of Presidential Gold Cup greats when he shoots for a back-to-back win in the country's most prestigious race today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.**

As previous victor, though, Empire King will be handicapped by the top weight of 58 kilos, a factor which may hamper his bid to join the classy list of back-to-back winners.

Another returning champion, Red Star Rising, the big winner in the 2003 edition, will also carry the same weight in what could probably be his final race before he is retired to stud.

Expected to make things a lot tougher for Empire King and Red Star Rising to win again is the fact that they will be ranged against a host of topnotch challengers led by Hermie Esguerra's 1-2 punch, last year's juvenile champion Real Spicy and the streaking filly Euro Bucks.

Then there are Cover Girl, resurrected in the recent Marho Classic where Empire King could only finish third, and noted 3-year-old colt Speed Advantage, considered as Real Spicy's chief rival in their division.

Speed demon Don Paolo is also joining the hunt for the P1.5 million first prize in the 2,000-meter contest so as PSA Cup winner Cat's Gold and veteran stakes runners Last Hazm and Cool Runnings.

Empire King nosed out West Bound to prevail last year under Jeffrey Ladiana.

On Sunday, John Cordero will try to get the Perfect Halo-Carta Nueve progeny on track following the Sandy Javier-bred galloper's awful run in the Marho Classic where Cover Girl beat Don Paolo by a mere nose.

"*Maraming magaling na kalaban pero malaki ang tiwala ko kay* Empire King," said Cordero.

**MODEL BOOTER: German top-model Heidi Klum kicks the ball during the final draw for the 2006 World Cup in Leipzig, Germany, Friday.** ***Stories on Page 24.*** AP

# Spring Oil nears Picaa Open title

SPRING COOKING OIL SCORED A COME-from-behind 90-82 victory over Mediatrix Telecoms and moved within a win of capturing the 2005 Picaa Open basketball tournament at the Philippine Buddhacare gym in Quezon City.

Gilbert Neo and MC Caceres provided the spark in a decisive 17-2 blast that enabled the Cooking Oil Masters of national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla to turn a 70-74 deficit into a commanding 87-76 lead going into the last two minutes.

Neo scored 10 of his 21 points in the payoff period, while Caceres added 15.

Spring goes for the title at 2:30 p.m. today in game 2 of the series sponsored by Hang Ten, Chloe Lightings, Absorba Sportswear and Tomish Cafe (Dapitan).

Mediatrix dictated the tempo of the game and even posted several eight-point leads in the third quarter. But the Cooking Oil Masters came back to life in the fourth canto.

If Mediatrix wins, the rubber match will be played on Tuesday.

King's Bakeshop nipped Wang's Hallclub-RTU, 96-94, in the battle for third.

**The Scores:**

**SPRING 90**—Neo 21, Caceres 15, Hubalde 14, Yambao 11, De Castro 10, Manuel 8, Reyes 7, Corbin 2, Victolero 0, Taguines 0, Tiongco 0.

**MEDIATRIX 82**—Sanders 14, Reyes 10, Regala 10, Valdez 10, Bagulon 9, Bascon 8, De Guia 8, Buenaventura 6, Lopez 4, Mendiola 2, Montemayor 1, Williams 0.

**Quarters:** 28-21, 49-52, 68-70, 90-82

# Philtobo stages Horse Show tomorrow

FUTURE RACETRACK CAMPAIGNERS takes center stage tomorrow when the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo) stages the eagerly awaited 2005 Horse Show at the saddling paddock of the Santa Ana Park.

More than 100 horses which will be nominated to the 2006 Philtobo Juvenile Races are expected to be paraded starting at 1 p.m. during the event which is now on its eighth staging.

Popular owner-breeder Hermie Esguerra has nominated 20 of his gallopers, while Philtobo president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr. and Edward Tan nominated 12 each.

Another noted racing personality, Rep. Benhur Abalos, the newly installed president of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners (Marho), also lent support to the show by fielding in six of his horses.

A full brother of Special Edition owned by Niles is among those nominated together with the half-brother of Real Top (Golden Doble) out of Mr. Sutter, sire of two of this year's promising juveniles Jet Sutter and Juggernaut.

Special Edition won the Juvenile Fillies contest of the 6th Philtobo Grand Championship Day last Nov. 6.

A couple of island-born runners are also nominated, including yearlings by US first season sire Yonaguska (Cherokee Run-Marital Spook by Silver Gjost), and yearlings by Van Nistelrooy (Storm Cat-Halory by Halo), Commendable (Gone West-Bought Twice by In Reality), Lil's Lad (Pine Bluff-Totemic by Vanlandingham), Bianconi (Danzig-Fall Aspen by Pretense) and Rhythm (Mr. Prospector-Dance Number by Northern Dancer).

# WBC champ picks Pacman over Morales

**By Salven L. Lagumbay,** *Contributor*

CEBU CITY — WORLD BOXING COUNCIL feather-weight king Chi In-jin of South Korea, now doing heavy training at the ALA Gym as he prepares for his titular defense against Japanese Takashi Koshimoto on Jan. 29 at the Kyuden Gym in Fukuoka, Japan, feels Filipino star Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao can win his rematch with Erik Morales if "he changes his style."

In an exclusive interview yesterday, Chi said he wants the Filipino icon to win over Morales, although the Filipino star needs to change tactics in the return war.

Chi had already fought Morales for the WBC featherweight title, losing by unanimous decision in what many ringsiders dubbed as Morales' toughest fight.

"I learned so many things in my first fight with Morales, but if given a chance that we fight again, maybe I can win," Chi said.

Chi, who has avoided the chilly winter climate in Korea to train for one month in Cebu, will return to the Dae-Won Gym in Seoul in early January before leaving for Japan around Jan. 25.

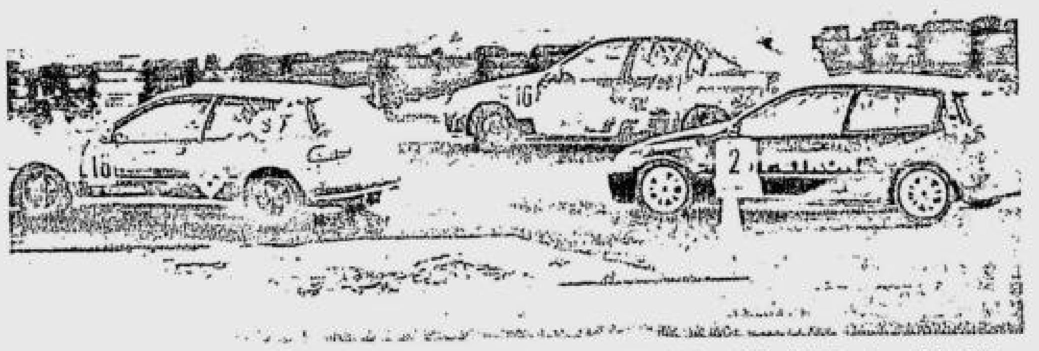
The 31-year-old Chi said his trainer, Kim Jin-kil, wants him to go through some 100 rounds of sparring against lefty Korean and Filipino boxers to keep him in shape for the third defense of his title.

"I have already seen tapes of my Japanese opponent, and he is strong, tall and is a southpaw," said Chi through a Korean interpreter.

The 12-round battle pits the right-handed Chi (30-2-1, 18 KOs) against the southpaw Koshimoto (38-1-2, 17 KOs), a 34-year-old native of Fukuoka.

When asked if he's willing to spar with OPBF super featherweight king Randy Suico, a regular at the ALA Gym, Chi declined.

"No, no Suico. He's right-handed. My Japanese opponent is a lefty."



**ENZO Pastor (No. 18) tries to pull away from Jody Coseteng (No. 16) and Kookie Ramirez (No. 2) in the early stages of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 the newly redesigned Subic International Raceway.**

# Pastor rules PNTC Round 6

SUBIC—AFTER BEING PENALIZED IN ROUND 5, Enzo Pastor bounced back by ruling Round 6 of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 recently at the redesigned Subic International Raceway here.

Pastor left rival and San Miguel Beer-Erg driver Jody Coseteng behind at the start of the race and pulled away midway to wrap up the 15-lap afternoon race with a time of 32 minutes and 29.676 seconds in this event sanctioned by the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines.

He posted his fastest lap time of 1:15.833 on the 12th lap, claiming the checkered flag 2.610 seconds ahead of Coseteng.

Petron Ultron-SRA skipper Kookie Ramirez, who emerged champion in Round 5, finished third as he clocked 32:33.622 while teammate Louie Ramirez and lady driver Gabby de la Merced wound up fourth and fifth, respectively.

But the title race scenario hasn't changed. Kookie Ramirez still leads the title race with 151 while Coseteng moved closer just three points behind with 148. Pastor also climbed up with 120, wresting third place from Philip Alvendia, whose car turned upside down on the fourth lap.

PNTCC organizer and Race Fans Inc. president Richard Santos vowed to make the last two legs even more exciting.

Round 6 will be showcased in Slipstream TV hosted by Dominic Uy and Carlo Tirona on Sports Plus Channel this Sunday at 7 p.m.

The Group 3 race was even hotter as Miguel Lazaro of Velocity Motors-H&R-Race Fans Team took the spotlight from perennial winner and arch rival Renan Morales of Shift Racing.

# Sorry, but I was provoked—Yeo

**By Jasmine W. Payo**

LA SALLE MAIN MAN JOSEPH Yeo "felt very sorry" but maintained he was provoked by former Ateneo standout Enrico Villanueva in instigating a scuffle that marred a PBA-sanctioned match Thursday.

"Joseph felt very sorry about the incident and was very worried that the games were not going to push through because of the incident," JJ Atayde and Bong de Ocampo, project directors of the Ateneo-La Salle Dream Games, said in a statement released yesterday to the La Salle community.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala warned Yeo that his application in the pro league could be in peril after the 6-foot-1 guard hit former Ateneo star Enrico Villanueva on the face with his forearm late Thursday night.

Villanueva suffered bloody cuts on the nose and upper lip.

The statement said although Yeo felt remorse for his act, the La Salle ace maintained that Villanueva's wayward elbow as they battled for a rebound caused him to retaliate.

"When Villanueva gave him the elbow on the chest, he just lost it," the statement added. "In fairness to Joseph, he has matured a lot and acknowledged that he should have checked himself."

The release also quoted Yeo as saying: "*Buong laro sinasaktan na kami ni* Villanueva. *Hindi ko na napigilan ang sarili ko. Pasensya na po kayo* (He was hurting us throughout the game. I wasn't able to control myself. I'm sorry)."

The Ateneo camp maintained that although there were rough physical contacts in the game, none were intentional.

"We didn't come to the game to get hurt," said Ricky Palou, Ateneo's representative to the UAAP board, when the Eagles threatened to pull out from the purportedly friendly match between the two rival universities.

Agreeing with Eala's decision to issue a stern warning, Villanueva said Yeo "should be given disciplinary actions" once the prized Archer applies for the PBA rookie draft next year.

# San Andres shines in Subic Speedfest

MULTI-TITLED KENNETH SAN Andres' crammed trophy cabinet is bound to get even crowder.

San Andres, last year's Rookie of the Year, scored a four-game moto sweep of his Expert Open and Expert 125 assignments to break away from his pursuers in the Red Horse Beer-Smart Buddy Speedfest at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority recently.

So dominant was San Andres that his pursuers, including teammate Geovani Leyva, trailed him by more than an entire lap in the four occasions that he won pulling away, as he solidified his status as the country's best young rider in the Speedfest, which is one of the legs of the Philippine National Motocross Championships sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association

"Kenneth's one-week training in Murrieta, California, in the US under former world motocross champion Jim Gibson paid off," said his father-coach Jun-Jun san Andres.

San Andres, a first year student of the Manila central University, is backed by Caltex Revtex, Oakley, HJC Helmets, Bridgestone, Renthal, Alpine Star, Fox, UFO and JBS Motorcycle Shop.

# Nike pulls off another Fil-Am golf title double

By Musong R. Castillo

**BAGUIO CITY—PINT-SIZED BOYET SARAGOZA stood tall in a head-to-head duel with Southwoods' Michael Bibat Saturday as Nike Golf topped the Am division to complete another championship double in the 56th Fil-Am Invitational here.**

Saragoza salvaged a level 61 worth 36 points at the difficult Baguio Country Club, boosting Nike's Am squad to a three-point win over a game Southwoods side after Nike had ran away with the Fil title over at Camp John Hay earlier.

First National Caddies' Open champion Jonel Ababa scrambled for a 31 and veteran Dave Hernandez and Joseph Labajo contributed 29 each as Nike Am totaled a final round 125 that left Southwoods as runner-up in both divisions for the second straight year.

Starting the day four points up, Nike totaled 529 after four rounds while Southwoods amassed a 526 aggregate after a 126 yesterday built around Hanson So Jr.'s 35 and Mico Alejandro's 31. Bibat and Jong Laput both carded 30s that counted while Jun Jun Plana's 27 was thrown away.

Both teams were even when Bibat, a key figure in the Philippines' gold medal win in the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games, and Saragoza stepped on the 16th tee, a 181-yard downhill par-3 with a huge lake guarding the left side of the green.

The 5-foot-1 Saragoza gently put his 7-iron on the left side of the pin while Bibat dumped his ball into the pond that led to a pick-up and a two-point swing after Saragoza's routine two-putt for par.

"It's what you call the breaks of the game," said jubilant Nike consultant Tommy Manotoc. "The boys showed a lot of character out there and deserved to win. It was an exciting finish to witness."

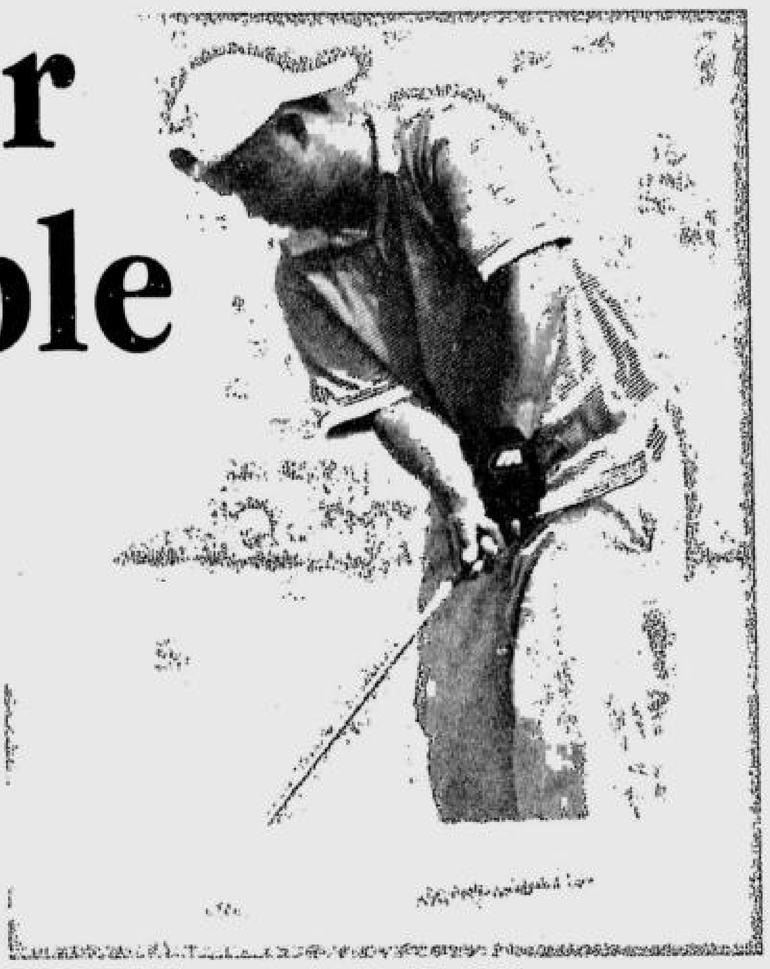
Meanwhile, Juvic Pagunsan bounced back with a 42 after an eagle-spiked 6-under 63 at John Hay, leading the team to a 153 final round and a 72-hole 568 tally for a 23-point victory over Southwoods.

Jay Bayron chipped in with 39 points and the 36s of Mario Labajo and Abe Rosal both counted for Nike's Fil team, which dumped the 34 of former RP Amateur champion Jun Bernis.

Erwin Vinluan led Southwoods with 39 markers at John Hay and Gene Bondoc had 37, Mico Yee 35 and Anthony Fernando 34 for the team's 145 and 545 tally. Tonlits Asistio failed to count with a 33.

Buboy Jaraula shot 39 points and Louie Dacudao had 38 as Del Monte pooled 144 for a 528 tally and a third place finish in the Fil division. Joel Opaco's 35 and Paul Minoza's 32 were the other cards that counted for Del Monte.

Royal Carribean took third place in Am play.



SARAGOZA: Tiny guy stands tall for Nike Golf.

# Tabuena heads jungolf aces in Young Guns tilt

TABUENA

HOLDERS OF INTERNAtional junior golf titles are expected to lead a huge field in the 4th Young Guns 2005 Golf Invitational Tournament slated on Dec. 19-21 at the picturesque Tagaytay Midlands course.

Champions of various international events led by Miguel Tabuena, Andie Unson, Marcel Puyat, Dottie Ardina and Ma-an Legaspi will be competing in various age-group divisions.

After being opened to players 12 years and below in its first three editions, organizers have decided to add the new age-group categories for 13-14 and 15-17 years in memory of the late Louie Tabuena, a golf enthusiast and patron.

Young Guns president Luigi Tabuena said that this year's tourney will celebrate the memory of his father's life, a good part of which he enjoyed by being into sports.

It was also the late Tabuena who inspired his grandson Miguel to take up the game.

Aside from crystal trophies for the winners, exciting prizes are up for grabs. These include a round-trip-ticket for two to Hong Kong courtesy of PAL, 10 iPod Shuffles and two iPod Nanos to be given away during the awarding ceremony on Dec. 19.

There will be a practice round on the 15th and 16th.

Sponsors are Philippine Airlines, ICTSI (International Container Terminal Services Inc.), Heinz UFC, Production Village Corp., Media Circuit Inc., Pair Cargo, Golf Depot, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Earl McCarthy, Call Asia Inc. and URC-Universal Robina Corp.

For details, visit the websites www.younggunsgolf.org or younggunsgolf@excite.com. or call the secretariat at 8299514-15.

# Fil-Am friendship; rosy Rose Bowl

## SPECTATOR

*Al S. Mendoza*

BAGUIO CITY—FRIENDSHIP IS ACTUALLY what it's all about in the Fil-Am Golf Championships.

That's what Dez Bautista, who is as "Baguio" as the strawberry jam, was telling me again yesterday.

"The Fil-Am began as a friendship golf event between Filipinos and Americans," said Dez, the love of Au's life whose goat dishes at the famous Iggy's are among the nation's best, particularly the *kilawen* and *kaldereta*. "Ambassador Rogelio de la Rosa and the American military officials back in 1949 had envisioned it that way when they started the Fil-Am."

To a large extent, it still is today.

While residues of fierce competition continue to make inroads into the tournament through the passage of time—which is but natural in an event as huge as the Fil-Am—tales of sportsmanship and gentlemanly behavior still continue to decorate the fabled shebang.

To illustrate, there's this guy named Antonio Hernandez, who informed tournament officials he was disqualifying himself after discovering that the scoreboard showed a score that was better than his actual score.

"I will not be able to sleep the rest of my life if I will keep quiet about it," said Hernandez, who played for the Philippine International Contractors team.

What was registered in Hernandez' scorecard was par in one hole instead of bogey. In golf, once you have signed your scorecard with a score on a hole that is better than what you have actually did, you get disqualified.

Had Hernandez not pointed out the mistake, no one among the 1,059 players might have noticed the wrong entry.

Such a show of unbridled honesty makes the game great as ever.

Let's raise a glass to him.

Mar de Guzman is another sterling example of what the game is all about.

The leader in the Fil C division going to yesterday's last round, De Guzman, playing for Team B.O.G., skipped his tee off time on Saturday to be by the bedside of his caddy, Ric Santos. Santos had suffered from food poisoning on Friday night and needed hospitalization.

"I am extremely proud of Ric," said Resty de Quiroz, the radio executive of dzAR who captains Team B.O.G. together with Joel Palacios, Mr. Shock Absorber of SSS. "Easily, he could have easily run away with the individual title had he played today."

Join me again, please, in raising a glass, this time to Mar.

There will always be scoundrels out there to spoil, if not soil, the sport. But people like Hernandez and De Guzman, sure, make the flame of sportsmanship in the game afire.

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Any trip to this lovable-as-ever mountain city isn't complete without a meal at the posh Baguio Country Club veranda. But since it is a for-members-only club, a non-member needs to be accompanied by a member in order to enter the premises.

What, Rico Agcaoili, the friendliest president BCC has ever had, isn't your friend?

Not to worry. Call Anthony de Leon, the no-nonsense BCC general manager, and you might yet receive the surprise of your life.

There's yet another place which is a must-visit, if only for its famed cuisine. That's the Rose Bowl in front of Burnham Park. The *pancit* and fried chicken there are definitely Baguio's pride. The rich and famous simply love to feast on those joy-to-the-palate fare.

Owned by Art Ng, whose impeccable poker skills are rivaled only by that of Gov. Rocky Molintas', Rose Bowl has been there for decades that it has now become almost a Baguio landmark. It is said that you haven't been to Baguio if you haven't been to Rose Bowl.

Take a bow, Art.

***

FASTBREAK. I commend IPI for its time-tested reliability in producing the results of the Fil-Am Golf championships as accurate as it can through the years. Rea Bisuna, the tireless IPI manager, has left the prestigious outfit in favor of a now-thriving *tilapia* farm. But Joey Arguelles' new man, Keven Gimeno, has more than filled up Rea's shoes. Cheers guys!

***

*E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net*

## SPORTSWATCH

### Legend Tee registration under way

REGISTRATION for the fifth Legend Tee golf tournament, slated Dec. 17 at the Subic Bay Golf and Country Club, is ongoing, according to the organizing hotel and casino operator Legend International Resorts Ltd. Former President Fidel V. Ramos will join SBMA chairman Feliciano Salonga and LIRL Chief Executive Officer Khoo Boo Boon in hitting the ceremonial drive to kick off the fund-raiser. Fabulous prizes, trophies and memberships to the Legendary Gold Club as well as special awards will be given away to the best players in various categories. Discounted room rates are also offered to tournament participants at LIRL's Legenda Hotel, the Grand Seasons Hotel and Legenda Suites. For registration and bookings, contact 732-9888 or Subic at (047) 252-1888 or 0915-995-2800. Forms may be downloaded on www.subiclegend.com. Beneficiaries will be the GMA Kapuso Foundation and the Ophthalmological Foundation of the Philippines. Registration fee for club members is P2,000 and P3,000 for non members inclusive of green fees, lunch, cocktails, awards dinner, giveaways and raffle stub.

### Golf Power Plus on RPN-9 today

GOLF Power Plus features this afternoon the First Samsung Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge elimnation round game between World Citi College and Far Eastern University Team 2. It was played at the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City. Golf Power Plus is aired at 3 p.m., Sundays on RPN-9 and on ABS-CBN Global's TFC/Pinoy Central TV. It is supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, PCSO and Mapecon. Fistorama follows at 4 p.m., also on RPN-9. This week's episode features former flyweight champion Jerry Pahayahay against highly rated Chris Dajali in 10 rounds.

### 2 derbies at San Juan Coliseum

TWO big derbies are lined up at the fully air- conditioned and world -class San Juan Coliseum this week. Set to unfold on Monday and Wednesday is the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7 – cock derby, with about 65 fights confirmed. Headed by Gov. Ito Ynares, the NCA is now bigger and stronger with 43 members. Among the new members are Joey Dy, Reps. Iggy Arroyo and Butch Pichay, Danny Valero, Phil Say, Claude Bautista and Julio Jalandoni. Scheduled on Dec. 13, 15 and 17 is the Daytime 4 –Cock Derby with P1 million and an owner- type jeep awaiting the winners. Host is Aba Badiola and SJC management. With only P4,400 as entry fee, the three- day cockfest has attracted more than 150 entries as of yesterday. Reservation of cockhouses is still ongoing. For details, call 0918 -2620338 (Aba).

### Makati cockfest weights submission

COCKERS and breeders taking part in Makati Coliseum's super event, the Pamaskong Salpukan 6 - Cock Derby, must submit entries today. Entries will be accepted from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For particulars, call 896 -3545 and 895 -6475. The seven-day spectacle starts tomorrow, featuring the 3- cock elimination round. Elimination rounds are scheduled on Dec. 14, 17, 19 and 21. The finals will be on Dec. 26 and 28. An eye-popping prize of P3 million plus a brand Toyota Innova will be given to the winners. Entry fee is P11,000. The first 100 paying patrons on Monday may avail of WTJ's "buy - one, take- one" promo on tickets.

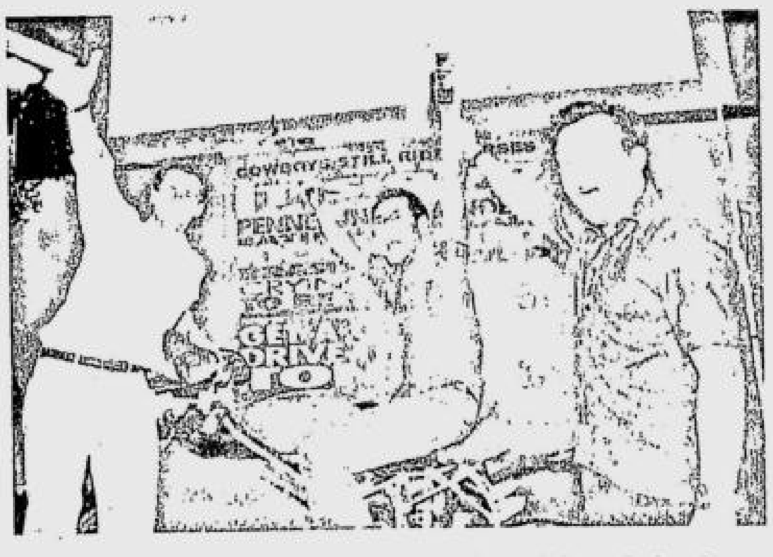
# RGFFP sets triple event

THE ROTARY GOLFING FELLOWSHIP FOUNDAtion of the Philippines (RGFFP) will celebrate its 20th year by holding a "triple event" on Jan. 18-21.

The Rotarians will compete for the title of 2006 Rotarian Champion of Golf, launch a Northern Luzon Caddies' golf championship and hold a medical and dental mission for the needy. Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay will serve as venues of the "triple event."

Entries will be classified into Classes A, B, C and D, based on their respective handicaps. The team competition will be decided by aggregate gross scores.

Special 20th anniversary trophies and prizes await winners, together with P1 million cash awards for holes-in-one. Contact the RGFFP Secretariat's Pauline Sevilla (0920-9199000) or Leah Grubat (0920-9087635) at 7218667 loc. 110, fax 721-5940 or email rgffp1997@yahoo.com.



MOTORCYCLE WINNER: David Reyes Plaza (center) shouts for joy after winning a Ducati 999 motorcycle through the Marlboro Red Drive promo last month. With him are Philip Morris Phils. Manufacturing Inc. marketing director Maarten Kila (left) and Marlboro brand manager Jasper Evangelista.

# Alabang posts sweep

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB reaped the fruits of continuous team rebuilding as it pulled off a rare championship double in the recent Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) Circuit.

Alabang first captured the overall plum in the regular WGAP Circuit following a strong performance in the eighth and final leg then dominated play in the WGAP Cup that featured the top five teams /clubs of the season.

Trailing Sta. Elena most of the way, Alabang grabbed a one-point lead after the sixth leg and managed to win by three points when the circuit was over.

Alabang then fielded a team made up of Lorna Tabuena, Gina Tuason, Joan Morales, Lolit Arguelles, Vids Torralba, Vivian Chua, Issa Velayo, Verni Oledan, Manilyn Reynes, Anna Haurie, Christine Naidoo, Tina Javellana, Merlie Garcia, Corlayn del Rosario, Ofie Carlos, Maria Brumann and Finina Gorres in the WGAP Cup and still came out the winner.

In the final standings, Alabang had 8.5 points, Sta. Elena 8, Manila Southwoods 6, Villamor 4 and Forest Hills 3.5.

"Nobody does it better than Alabang in team play," said Alabang Ladies chapter president Lorna Tabuena.

SEAG BACKER: President and CEO Cecilio K. Pedro (left) of Lamoiyan Corp., maker of Hapee Toothpaste, hands over Hapee products to Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee secretary general Steve Hontiveros. At right is Managing Consultant Ding Salvador.

# Korean gains 2nd round of PCA Open

TOP-SEEDED CHUNG HEE SEOK OF KOREA scored an easy 6-2, 6-1 win over MacLean Barraquias to barge into the second round of the men's singles yesterday at the start of the 2005 PCA Open in Paco, Manila.

Seok will face No. 2 qualifier Charles Baba, who defeated Julius Kraut, 7-6 (3), 6-1, in the next round of the weeklong tournament presented by Basilan Gov. Muslim "Wahab" Akbar.

Other seeded players moving into the second phase of the tourney were fourth-seeded and 23rd Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Johnny Arcilla, fifth-seeded Rolando Ruel Jr. and eight-seeded Alexander Lazaro.

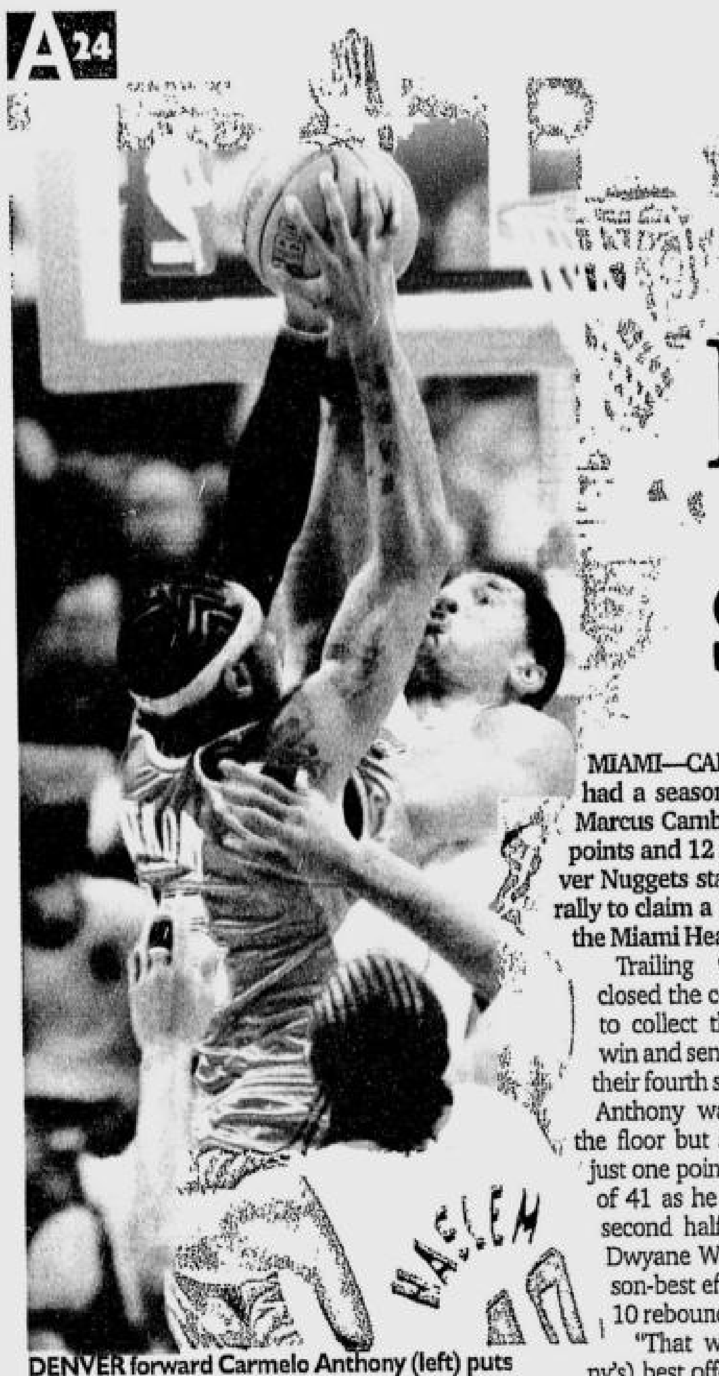
Arcilla outclassed Raymond Diaz, 6-1, 6-1; Ruel downed Federico Balorio, 6-1,6-1, while Lazaro clobbered Virgilio Sison, 6-0, 6-2.

The second round begins tomorrow in the meet sponsored by Solar Sports, Aceel, PVI Restaurant-Little Lawrence, Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Village, Las Palmas, Poweraide, Coca-Cola, Stronghold Insurance, San Miguel Brewery, Maresa Creative Group, Cel Consolidators, PMS Ship Agency, MILS, Equitable-PCI, Burlington and Pixel Project.

Also winning their irst round matches were wild card Mike Misa, who triumphed over qualifier Juv Alban, 6-1, 6-1; Michael Basco, who beat Juvan Divinagracia, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; Antonio Sagaysay III, who bested Alfred Casareo, 6-0,6-0; Luisito Clores, who scored a 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-2 win over You Sung Hyun of Korea and Korean Hoon Sueng Oh, who downed qualifier Marvin Serito, 6-0, 6-0.

Patrick John Tierro, the country's top ranked player and gold medalist in the recent SEAG, is seeded No.2 in the tournament. He is scheduled to play No. 3 qualifier Rogelio Hermano in the first round.

Other seeded players in the meet are Chimel Mantua (6th) and Adelo Abadia (7th).



**DENVER** forward Carmelo Anthony (left) puts up a shot against Miami's Wayne Simien. AFP

# Nuggets torch skidding Heat

MIAMI—CARMELO ANTHONY had a season-high 40 points and Marcus Camby helped out with 18 points and 12 rebounds as the Denver Nuggets staged a fourth-quarter rally to claim a 100-92 road win over the Miami Heat on Friday.

Trailing 92-88, the Nuggets closed the contest with a 12-0 run to collect their third consecutive win and send the slumping Heat to their fourth straight defeat.

Anthony was just 13-of-30 from the floor but still finished the night just one point shy of his career-high of 41 as he engaged in a thrilling second half duel with the Heat's Dwyane Wade, who put in a season-best effort with 37 points and 10 rebounds.

"That was by far his (Anthony's) best offensive game for us this year," Nuggets coach George Karl said.

"We did what we wanted to do, steal game on the road," Anthony said.

In Cleveland, Vince Carter hit for a season-high 38 points, pulled down 11 rebounds and dished out six assists as New Jersey Nets handed the Cavaliers just their second home loss of the season with a 109-100 victory.

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson poured in 43 points and Kyle Korver matched a career-high with 26 points as the 76ers pulled out of a four-game losing skid with a 119-115 win over the Charlotte Bobcats.

In Memphis, Dirk Nowitzki scored 35 points and grabbed nine rebounds as the Dallas Mavericks downed the Grizzlies 90-83 for their fourth straight win.

In Chicago, Kobe Bryant nailed 23 points, grabbed nine rebounds and dished out eight assists as the Los Angeles Lakers downed the Chicago Bulls 93-80 at the United Center.

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, sparking the Spurs to their sixth straight win with a 101-89 decision over the Boston Celtics.

In Salt Lake City, Rashard Lewis scored 26 points as the Seattle SuperSonics blasted the Jazz 106-90.

In Phoenix, Steve Nash scored 19 points and dished out nine assists as the Suns edged the New York Knicks 85-81, stretching their win streak to nine games.

In Portland, Martell Webster drained a key three-pointer in overtime as the Portland Trail Blazers downed the New Orleans Hornets 98-95 to end a six-game losing streak.

In Oakland, Chauncey Billups hit for 29 points and Richard Hamilton and Rasheed Wallace each chipped in with 22 points as the Detroit Pistons trimmed the Golden State Warriors 106-103. *Reuters*

# Big foreign field to join Para Games

THE 3RD ASEAN PARA GAMES IS EXPECTED to draw over 1,000 foreign participants, led by athletes from defending overall champion Thailand, when it kicks off Dec. 14 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Michael Barredo, chair of the Philippine ASEAN Para Games Organizing Committee (PAPGOC), said Thailand alone will be sending 252 delegates in a determined bid to defend its title in the Games.

Malaysia will send 176 athletes and officials, while Vietnam will be sending 108 delegates to the biennial sports event presented by the PCSO, PSC, DPWH and backed by PLDT-Smart, Systems Technology, Inc., Pag-ibig, SM Shoemart, Philpost, Philspada, NBN-4, Manila Bulletin, and the City Government of Manila under Mayor Lito Atienza.

Barredo, chair of the ASEAN Para Sports Federation, said the Philippine will have 198 athletes and officials.

The meet is also supported by American President Line, Pfizer Inc., Red Ribbon, Crossover 105.1, Sports Radio, IBM Computers, Metaphione and GSIS.

WORLD CUP

# Fate deals Brazil, host Germany good hand

LEIPZIG, GERMANY—THE WORLD CUP draw was kind to defending champion Brazil and host Germany. It really hurt Argentina.

Five-time champion Brazil will play its first match against 1998 semifinalist Croatia, followed by games against Australia and Japan.

"It's a group many will consider technically easy, but it won't be like that," Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said. "We will need to be very alert."

Brazil remains an 11-4 favorite with the bookmakers.

Germany, which has won the title three times, plays the opening game against Costa Rica before taking on neighbor Poland and Ecuador.

Despite the easy draw, coach Juergen Klinsmann and former World Cup winning captain and coach Franz Beckenbauer were cautious, especially about the opening game against the Costa Ricans in Munich.

"Don't expect too many goals in the opening game," Klinsmann said while Beckenbauer reminded the Germans how Argentina lost the opener to Cameroon and France tumbled to Senegal.

While it sounds like easy rides for the Brazilians and Germans, Argentina has another tough job getting to the knockout phase after having been eliminated in the first round in 2002.

The Argentines drew the Netherlands as well as Serbia-Montenegro and a talented Ivory Coast team which may well mark its debut with some upset victories.

France, the 1998 champion, must start against one of the teams it faced in qualifying, Switzerland. England faces Sweden for the second straight World Cup. *AP*

# *A nation cries for Argentina after tough soccer draw*

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA—Argentines were staggered by the results of Friday's World Cup draw with one television announcer summed up the nation's response succinctly: "Oh no!"

Argentines cursed their luck on Friday after they drew arguably the toughest group for next year's quadrennial soccer championship, with the South Americans having to face the Netherlands, Ivory Coast and Serbia-Montenegro.

Champion in 1978 and 1986 and runner-up in 1990, Argentina failed to get past the first round in 2002 and the draw means it will have little margin for error at the tournament's outset.

The Netherlands eliminated Argentina in the 1998 World Cup and the Dutch were the one European team many Argentines were hoping to avoid. Serbia and Montenegro breezed past Spain in qualifying, while the Ivory Coast features such stars as Chelsea striker Didier Drogba.

"We've got to be really prepared for what's to come," said Jose Basualdo, who played on Argentina's 1990 World Cup team.

"All the teams are difficult. Ivory Coast has good players, Holland is always to fear, and Serbia and Montenegro demonstrated in qualifying that it is a very good team," Basualdo said.

But the other three teams in the group also are likely fretting about having to face Argentina.

"We landed in a difficult group, but we've got to think our rivals are also worried," Julio Olarticoechea, a member of the 1986 squad, said.

Ricardo Bochini, a teammate of Olarticoechea, said Argentina needs to finish first in the group. "If we've got any aspirations we must win the group," he said. "Then the hard games will follow." *AP*

# Miñoza fires 65, eyes top ten finish

BANGKOK—FRANKIE MIÑOZA OF THE PHILIPPINES shot the round of the day with a 7-under-par 65 Saturday to move into contention for a top 10 finish in the $600,000 Volvo Masters of Asia.

Miñoza, ranked 30th overall in the Asian Order of Merit, posted nines of 33-32 in a big comeback from 29th place Friday and climbed into a five-way tie for eighth place with a 54-hole 219 total, a distant eight strokes off the lead.

The Filipino star, who opened up with rounds of 70-74, birdied three holes on the front nine and went six under with three straight birdies from No. 11. After a bogey on the 15th, he went birdie-eagle on the next two holes but closed out with another bogey.

The race for the title in this final tournament on the Asian tour became a three-way fight among Indians Shiv Kapur and defending champion Jyoti Randhawa and Australian Marcus Booth as they finished tied at 201 after three rounds.

Kapur clung to a share of the lead with a 68 while Booth and Randhawa rallied with a 66 and a 67, respectively.

Chawalit Plaphol of Thailand was the next contender at 206 after a 67.

Angelo Que, the other Filipino in the field, struggled with a 75 (36-39) and fell into a two-way tie for 40th place at 219.

# National duathlon meet up at Clark

CLARK, PAMPANGA—CLARK SPECIAL Economic Zone plays host to the 4th National Duathlon Championships fires off Dec. 19 in preparation for the 2006 Asian Duathlon Championships here next year.

Clark Development Corporation and Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Trap), in cooperation with Clark Multisport Group (CMG) and the offices of Senator Pia Cayetano, expect the event to lure more than 300 participants from different regions of the country.

Expected to join the national event are the duathlon teams from Tarlac Province, Quezon Province, Naga City, Baguio City, Davao City, Cagayan de Oro and Metro Manila.

CDC president Antonio R. Ng, who signed a memorandum of agreement with Trap president Tomas T. Carrasco Jr., said this year's national meet will have a festive atmosphere in an effort to promote Clark not only as a tourist and convention destination in Central Luzon, but also as a sports tourism area.

Carrasco said winners of the event will represent the country in the Asian championship where the winners will advance to the 2006 World Duathlon Championship in Canada.

# Campbell keeps Target lead

THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA—US OPEN champion Michael Campbell dropped four shots over his last four holes for an even-par 72 Friday but still led after the second round of the Target World Challenge exhibition golf tournament.

"I've actually increased my lead by one shot," the New Zealander said. But only because he wasn't alone in his struggles.

Campbell stayed three ahead of Ireland's Padraig Harrington and Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke.

Tournament host Tiger Woods made double bogey at the par-5 11th, shooting a 72 that left him nine shots behind.

## Rained out

In Singapore, the Internationals maintained their lead in the inaugural Lexus Cup after play was suspended Saturday due to heavy rain.

The internationals were 3-0 up with three of the six fourball matches completed when the heavens opened, extending their overall lead over their Asian opponents to 7-2. *AP*

**MICHAEL** Campbell hikes his cushion to four shots. AP

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

# Mama Lea!

## Ms Salonga puts up her feet and chats with INQUIRER Entertainment

**By Bayani San Diego Jr.**

DURING PDI'S GRAND GUYITO unveiling held at the Ayala Museum on Dec. 5, Lea Salonga dished out showstoppers—"When October Goes," "On My Own," "True Colors" and "Tomorrow"—from her recent Carnegie debut. Her voice exuded womanly charm and breezy warmth.

Was it because she's 16 weeks pregnant?

**TAKE FIVE**

Backstage, Lea gamely sat down with INQUIRER Entertainment.

So comfortable, she stretched out and rested her legs on the chairs. "I have to put my feet up," she said. "For some reason, my back is in a strange place."

**Has your voice changed?**

It's harder to warm up. I went to see my voice doctor earlier today. He said my vocal chords are perfect, but I have acid reflex. He gave me a list of things I couldn't eat and advised me to increase my fluid intake.

**Your mom says you were "looking" for your high notes earlier today.**

I just need to warm up properly in order to find them. For "Beauty and the Beast," I coached [KC Concepcion and Karel Marquez] to do this. My voice teacher also said, "When you're pregnant, things will drop and things will stretch ..."

**Is it hormonal?**

Some of it. Some of it is physiological. She says it will be more difficult to engage my transverse abdominal muscle, which permits me to belt.

MAMA/ A2-2

# Artists stopped from receiving 'ASAP' awards

**By Nini Valera**

GMA 7 ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TO THEIR contract stars not to appear in last Sunday's ASAP Platinum Circle Awards aired on ABS-CBN even if the artists were recipients of the award, according to Darling de Jesus, GMA 7's assistant vice president for Musical Shows.

"Our artists have a contract with GMA 7 that stipulates ... they can't appear in a competing show," De Jesus told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview. "It's silly for ABS-CBN to expect our artists to show up on 'ASAP,' especially since they are mainstays of our 'SOP,' a competing show."

De Jesus pointed out that this practice was not exclusive to GMA 7.

"For example, [ABS-CBN contract star] Zsa Zsa Padilla could not even give her daughter, [GMA 7 artist] Karylle a birthday greeting on 'SOP,'" said De Jesus.

Launched last Sunday on ABS-CBN's "ASAP," the Platinum Circle Awards was meant to honor the biggest selling local acts and recording artists, regardless of record label and network affiliations, and to boost the anti-piracy campaign of the Optical Media Board, said Deo Endrinal, ABS-CBN's vice president for Talk, Variety and Reality Shows.

"It wasn't a problem that their artists didn't come," Endrinal said. "What we didn't like was, [GMA 7] ordered record executives not to accept the awards [on behalf of the artists]. This was reported to us by the record executives, who said they received a text message to that effect."

Endrinal was referring to a text from Hazel Bonita, "SOP" program manager, which was also received by INQUIRER Entertainment.

ARTISTS/ A2-2

# GMA 7 sets co-prod with Koreans

## Network president says RP should no longer isolate itself

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

GMA NETWORK FILMS has been "picked" by a Korean-based independent outfit to co-produce a soap series to be filmed here and aired in four Asian countries, according to network president Felipe L. Gozon.

"This is a recognition of our capability by no less than the Koreans, from whom we buy *tele-novelas*," Gozon told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Friday. "It's gratifying to know that a foreign company trusts us and wants to work with us."

Gozon said GMA 7 and the indie company IBA Media Co. Ltd. plan to air the series in Taiwan and Japan, aside from the Philippines and Korea.

"We hope to execute the plan by March 2005. We are currently looking for places in the country where we can shoot the series," Gozon said.

He added that a tie-up with a Malaysian production company is also in the works. "We will own the rights to this *tele-novela*," he pointed out. "We're going global. We should no longer isolate ourselves; all the other countries in Asia are doing [co-prods]."

Gozon likewise said he was proud of the network's recent victory in this year's Asian Television Awards held in Singapore. GMA 7 is the first Philippine TV network to receive the highly coveted Terrestrial Channel of the Year award.

"Yearly, Asian stations get invited to submit entries in 33 different classifications. Our entries got the highest credit points," explained Gozon.

The network won over stations from such other countries as Japan, India, South Korea, China (including Hong Kong), Singapore, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam.

A total of 129 companies from these

GMA/ A2-4

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# Mama Lea!

From page A2-1

**Where will you give birth?**

I think my husband [Robert Chien] and I have decided to have the baby here. It's not a hundred percent sure yet.

**As you said, it was made in the Philippines...**

Exactly. It has to come out in the Philippines. My husband agrees with me on this: The nice thing about giving birth in Manila is that we have a support system of family and friends. My doctor is also here.

**Your mom's advice is for you to look only at beautiful people. When she was having you, she was into Pilar Pilapil.**

Yah! Me, KC Concepcion. She has one of the most perfect and beautiful faces. But I don't want my child to inherit her hyperactivity. Hahaha! If she reads this, she'd be like: "Mama Ley!" I've worked with her and I can't keep up with her.

**How does your husband show his support?**

He's been very supportive. He even takes a day off from work to come with me to the obstetrician's every month.

**Do you know the baby's gender?**

Not yet!

**What was it like performing at the Carnegie?**

There are no words to describe the experience. I felt very overwhelmed seeing the crowd.

It was a fantastic experience, one I will not soon forget. I was already three months pregnant then!

**It's something you can tell the baby.**

You were with me at the Carnegie! I don't think the baby will be impressed, though. My kid would say: "If you performed at Wembley, at Shea, at Beacon Theater—now, that would be awesome." No parent is cool to their children.

**Do you see your child singing "Tomorrow" someday?**

If my kid learns to sing it, I'd probably be the most tickled pink parent anywhere. But I think my baby would love rock!

# Artists stopped from receiving...

From page A2-1

In a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Bonita admitted that she sent the text messages to remind GMA 7 stars of the exclusivity of their contract.

Bonita said she sent the same message to record executives who asked about the network's position.

The ASAP Platinum Circle Award was given to about 20 recording artists whose albums or singles have sold at least 30,000 copies, the local standard for platinum record sales.

"The awards were based on record sales," Endrinal said.

GMA 7's Wilma Galvante, senior vice president for Entertainment, said there was nothing wrong with the award.

"*Ayaw lang ng* 'SOP' *magpagamit* ('SOP' does not want to be used)," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in a text message on Tuesday.

Speaking to INQUIRER Entertainment later, Galvante said, "Did you think [our artists] would absent [themselves from] 'SOP' just to appear on 'ASAP?'"

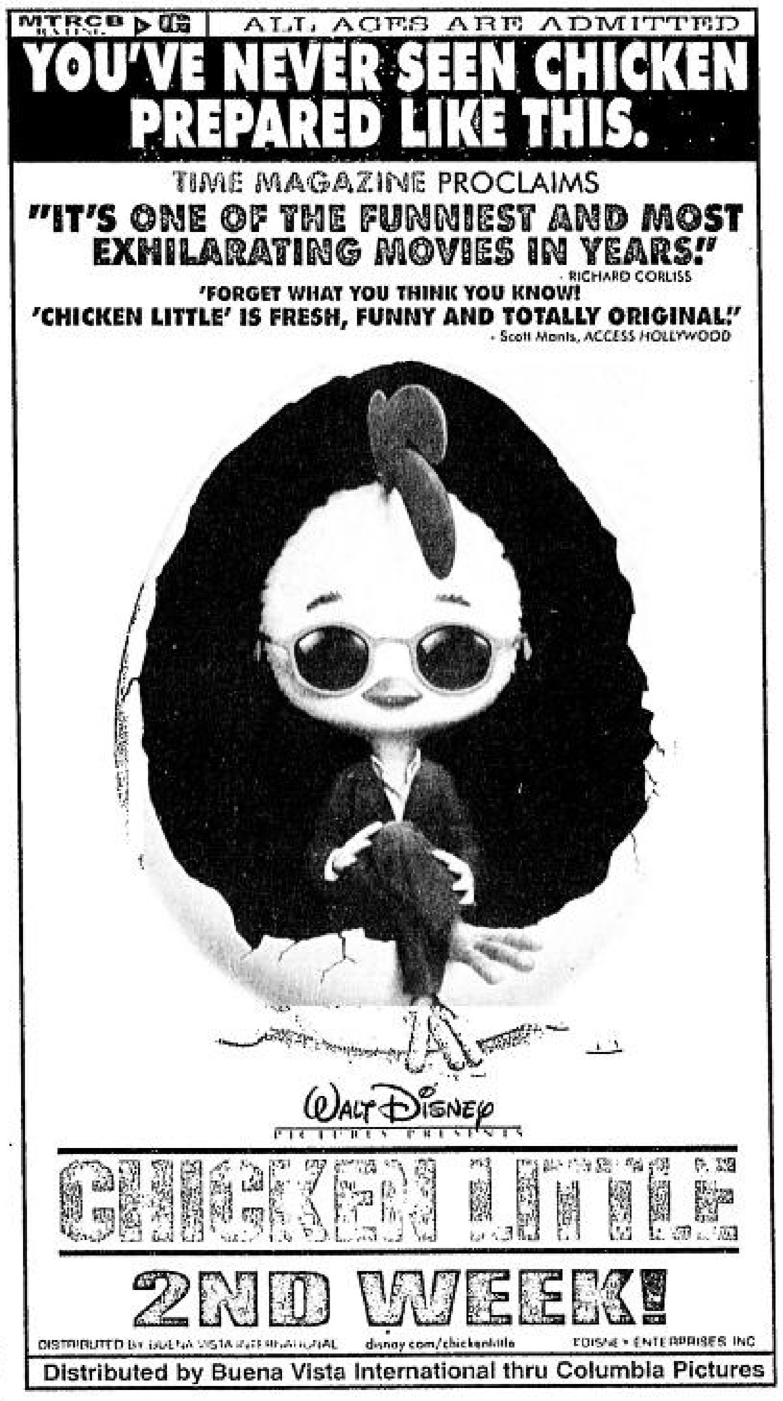
Galvante reiterated that "ASAP" was trying to use GMA 7 material to boost ratings.

"All platinum recording artists are with 'SOP,'" Galvante pointed out. "So they're using us to promote that episode. We have the top sellers—Ogie (Alcasid) and Regine (Velasquez)."

Endrinal, however, denied that the ASAP Platinum Circle Awards was about ratings. "It [was meant] to boost the record industry," he said. "We did this to honor the OPM artists, not to stage a gimmick."

The Optical Media Board, chaired by Edu Manzano, launched its "Iba Pa Rin ang Orig" text raffle promo on "ASAP" also last Sunday.

"If only to show our support for Original Pilipino Music artists, then any award to honor their achievement [should] always be welcome," said Viva Records executive Vic del Rosario. "We need all the help we can get."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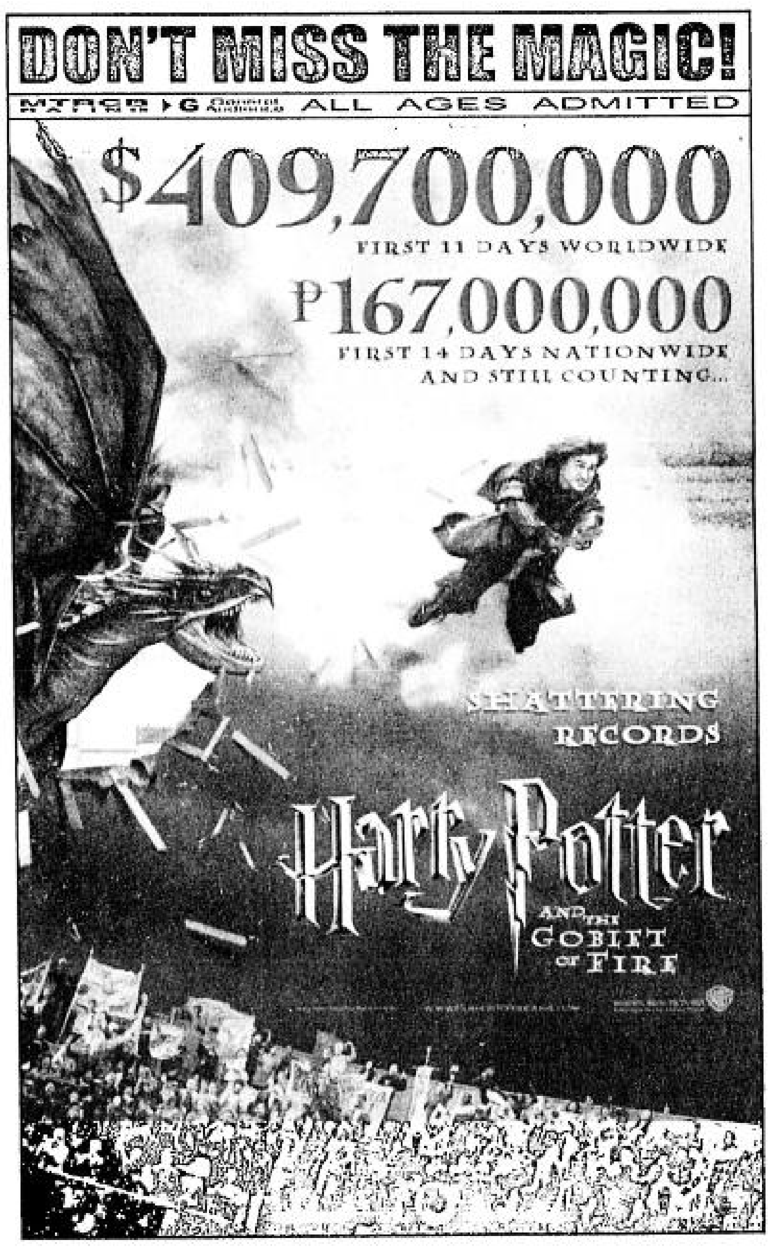
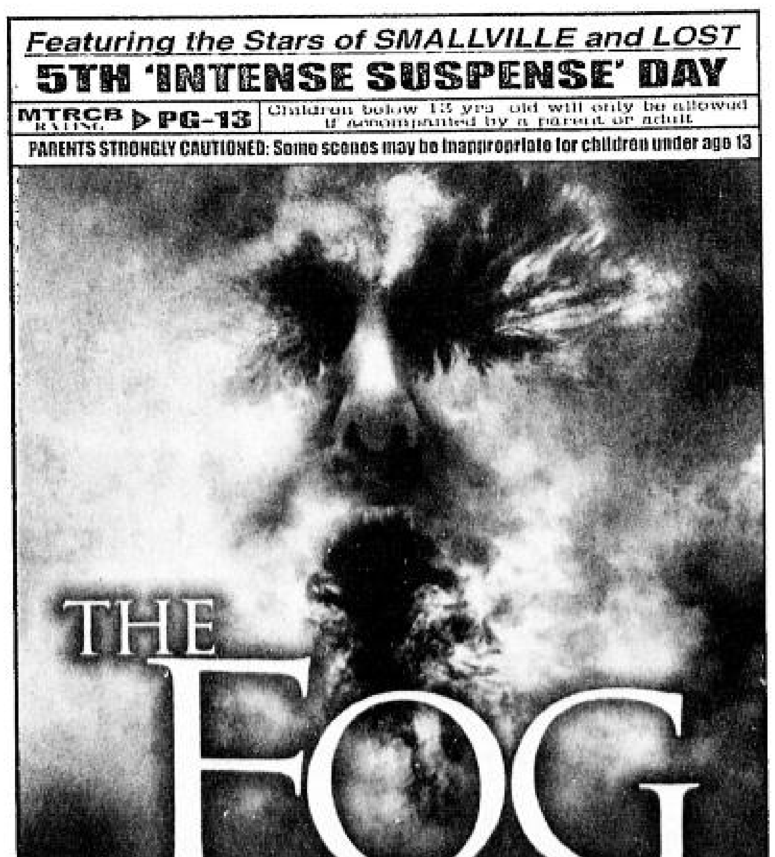
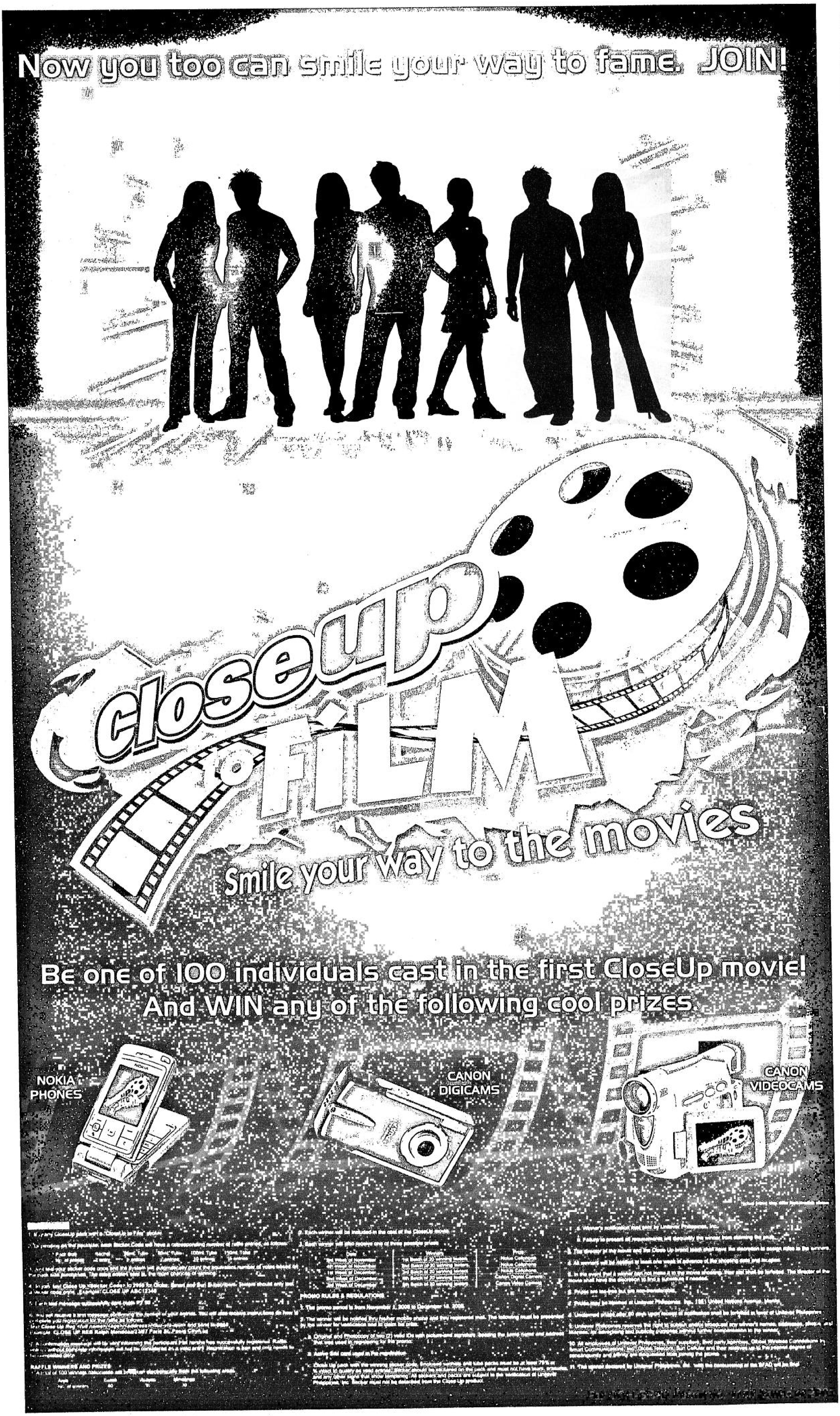
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


DON'T MISS THE MAGIC!
MTRCB RATING G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
$409,700,000
FIRST 11 DAYS WORLDWIDE
P167,000,000
FIRST 14 DAYS NATIONWIDE AND STILL COUNTING...
SHATTERING RECORDS
Harry Potter AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE


Featuring the Stars of SMALLVILLE and LOST
5TH 'INTENSE SUSPENSE' DAY
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED: Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13
THE FOG
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
COLUMBIA PICTURES
www.SonyPictures.net
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING G
FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
2ND WEEK!
"This generation's SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE with a twist of GHOST."
reese witherspoon mark ruffalo
Only love can bring you back...
Just Like Heaven
www.JustLikeHeaven-the movie.com
A united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
DREAMWORKS PICTURES



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And WIN any of the following cool prizes.

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CANON DIGICAMS

CANON VIDEOCAMS

PROMO RULES & REGULATIONS

RAFFLE WINNERS AND PRIZES

Ako si Chona,
ang unang pinakasalan
ni Elton, kaya
AKO LEGAL WIFE!
Ako si Patty,
ang nagbigay swerte
sa negosyo ni Elton,
kaya
AKO LUCKY WIFE!
I'm Gloria,
AKO LATEST WIFE!
I'm the pinakabata,
pinakaseksi at pinakamahal
ni Elton, okey?
合法妻
Ako Legal Wife
Mano Po 4?!
Rufa Mae
Cherry Pie
Jay
ZsaZsa
Text WIFE to 4627 (Smart) and 2346 (Globe)
OPENS DECEMBER 25
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC.
www.regalfilms.com/akolegalwife
AN OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE 2005 METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL-PHILIPPINES

## FEEDBACK

From Rose Bun, Cebu (via e-mail): Regarding your "That's Entertainment!" story, all I can say is, I believe people are tired of reading news about our crazy politics, crazy economy.

**WINNERS ALL.** Reporter K
Felipe L. Gozon and actor N

**POWER PLANT**
**CINEMA**
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **THE FOG**<br>**PG13**<br>1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15 | **IN HER SHOES**<br>**PG13**<br>11:40,2:20,5:00,<br>7:40,10:20 | **CHICKEN LITTLE**<br>**GP**<br>11:00,1:00,3:00,<br>5:00,7:00,9:00 |
| **AN UNFINISHED LIFE**<br>**PG13**<br>12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50 | **HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE**<br>**GP**<br>12:00,3:10,6:20,9:30 | **JUST LIKE HEAVEN**<br>**GP**<br>1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15 |

SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440-41.

# GMA 7 to

From page A2-1

countries participated and some 1,500 entries were gathered, Gozon added.

"Up to the last minute, they did not want to say who won (the top award). I attended the ceremony because I considered it important," Gozon said.

Michael V won Best Comedy Actor and Nonie

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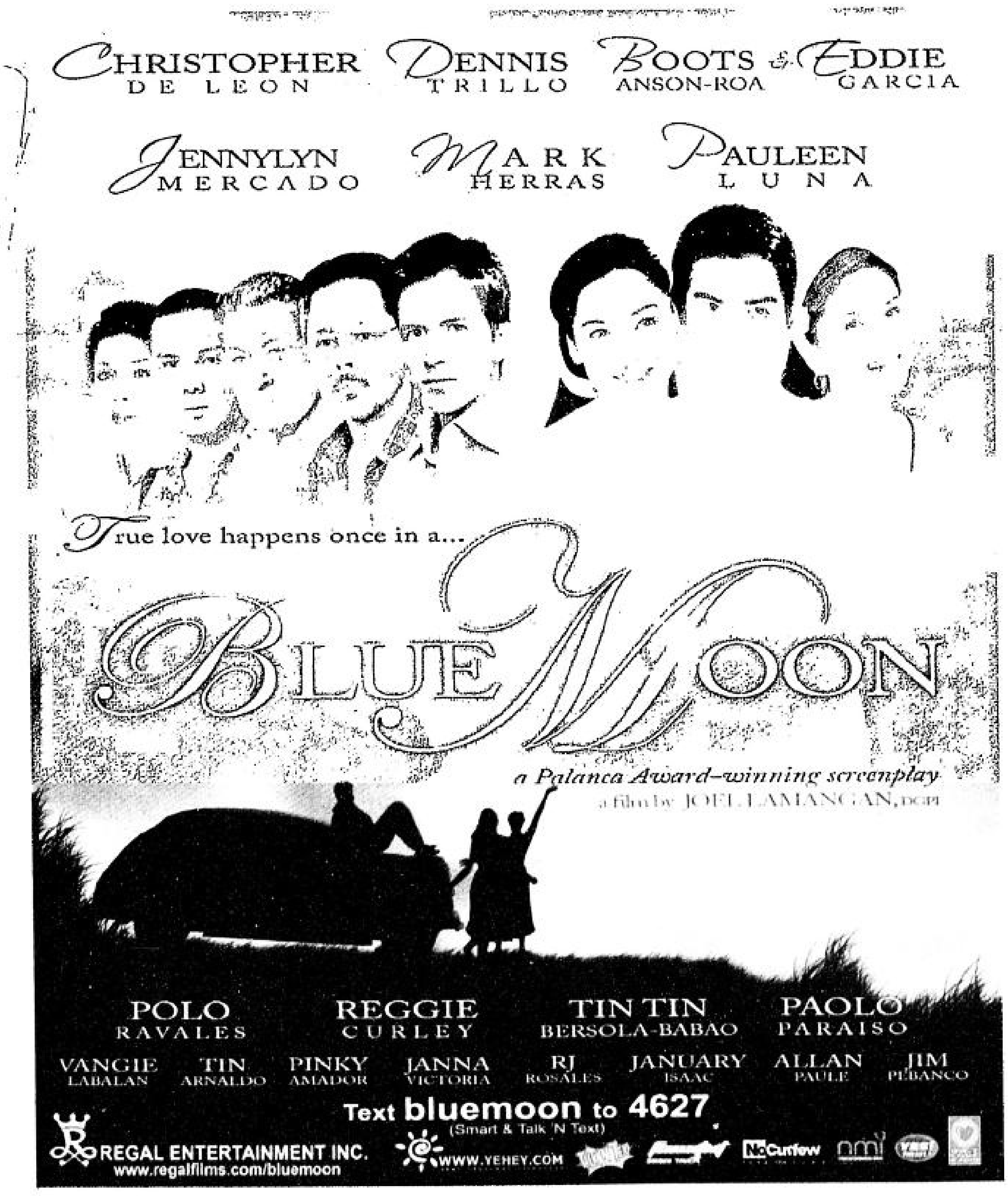
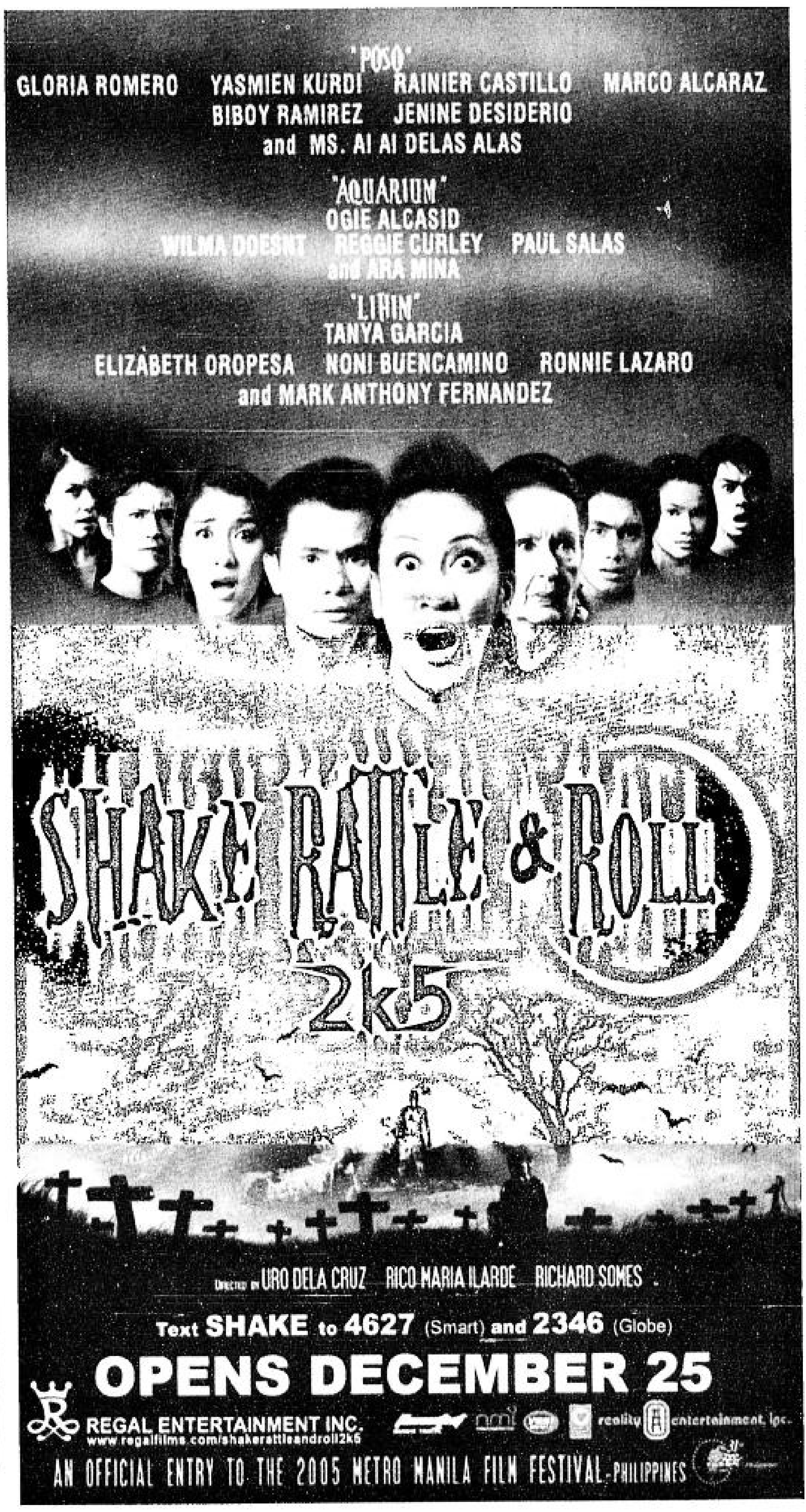
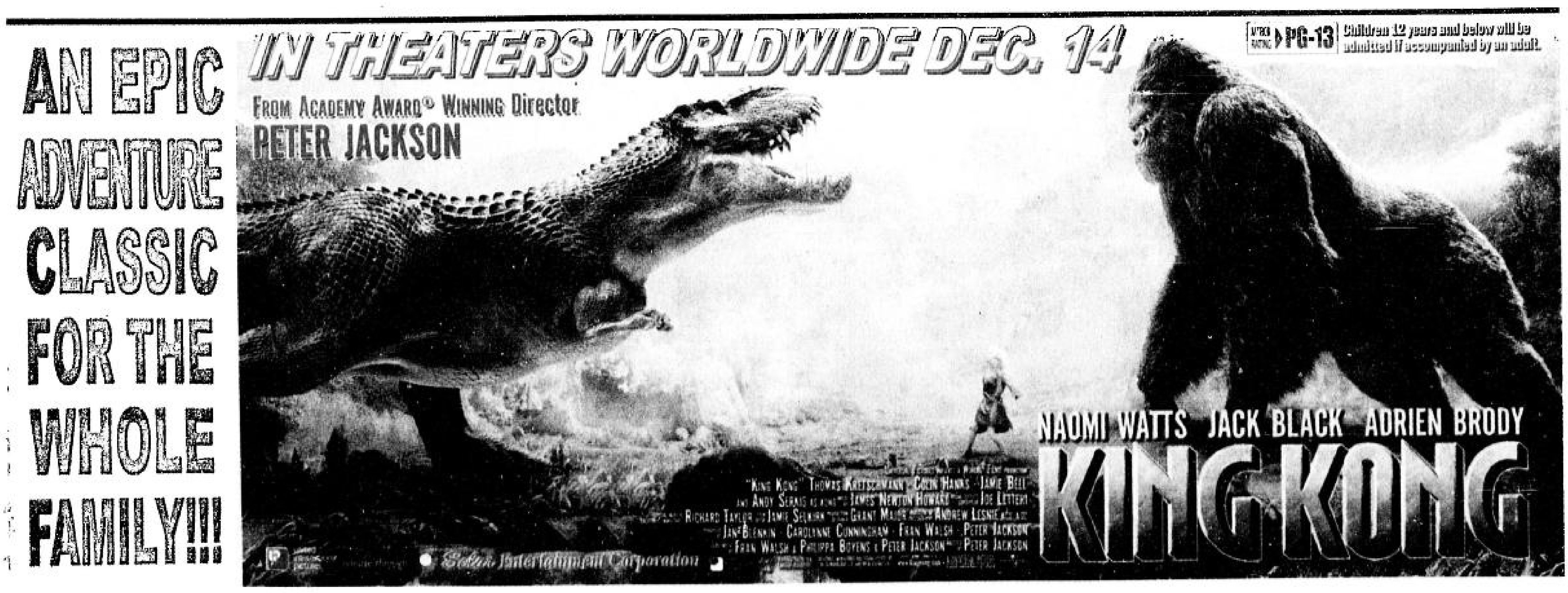

CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
DENNIS TRILLO
BOOTS ANSON-ROA & EDDIE GARCIA
JENNYLYN MERCADO
MARK HERRAS
PAULEEN LUNA
True love happens once in a...
BLUE MOON
a Palanca Award-winning screenplay
a film by JOEL LAMANGAN, DGPI
POLO RAVALES
REGGIE CURLEY
TIN TIN BERSOLA-BABAO
PAOLO PARAISO
VANGIE LABALAN
TIN ARNALDO
PINKY AMADOR
JANNA VICTORIA
RJ ROSALES
JANUARY ISAAC
ALLAN PAULE
JIM PEBANCO
Text bluemoon to 4627
(Smart & Talk 'N Text)
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC.
www.regalfilms.com/bluemoon
WWW.YEHEY.COM
NoCurfew


"POSO"
GLORIA ROMERO
YASMIEN KURDI
RAINIER CASTILLO
MARCO ALCARAZ
BIBOY RAMIREZ
JENINE DESIDERIO
and MS. AI AI DELAS ALAS
"AQUARIUM"
OGIE ALCASID
WILMA DOESNT
REGGIE CURLEY
PAUL SALAS
and ARA MINA
"LIHIM"
TANYA GARCIA
ELIZABETH OROPESA
NONI BUENCAMINO
RONNIE LAZARO
and MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ
SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL 2k5
DIRECTED BY URO DELA CRUZ RICO MARIA ILARDE RICHARD SOMES
Text SHAKE to 4627 (Smart) and 2346 (Globe)
OPENS DECEMBER 25
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC.
www.regalfilms.com/shakerattleandroll2k5
reality entertainment, inc.
AN OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE 2005 METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL-PHILIPPINES


AN EPIC ADVENTURE CLASSIC FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!!
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PG-13 Children 12 years and below will be admitted if accompanied by an adult.
FROM ACADEMY AWARD® WINNING DIRECTOR
PETER JACKSON
NAOMI WATTS JACK BLACK ADRIEN BRODY
KING KONG
"KING KONG" THOMAS KRETSCHMANN COLIN HANKS JAMIE BELL
AND ANDY SERKIS AS KONG JAMES NEWTON HOWARD JOE LETTERI
RICHARD TAYLOR JAMIE SELKIRK GRANT MAJOR ANDREW LESNIE
JAN BLENKIN CAROLYNNE CUNNINGHAM FRAN WALSH PETER JACKSON
FRAN WALSH & PHILIPPA BOYENS & PETER JACKSON PETER JACKSON
Solar Entertainment Corporation

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ara David, GMA 7 President
onie Buencamino

## produce...

Buencamino bagged the Best Drama Actor trophy for his performance in "Magpakailanman." Kara David's report on malnutrition in "I-Witness" won Best Social Awareness Program, while the silver aniversary presentation of "Eat Bulaga!" was declared Best Entertainment Special.

# 'Kisna': Bollywood chop suey

## It's an acquired taste for those who want their movies heavy and spicy

**By Oliver M. Pulumbarit**
*Contributor*

**REVIEW**

THE THREE-HOUR "KISNA: THE WARRIOR Poet" is almost genre-defying, a test of patience for the viewer, who can only suspend one's disbelief of theatrical Bollywood interjections for so long. It encompasses everything—a drama that shows a sizeable fraction of the bloody history of India in the 1940s, a romantic comedy studded with its requisite elements. And let's not forget the big, ornate song-and-dance numbers! They're here as well, and not necessarily to elucidate plot points.

The film had a limited run recently at the Gateway Cineplex in Araneta Center, Cubao. It's main draw for Pinoy viewers was 1994 Miss Universe Sushmita Sen, who is in the cast.

Co-written and directed by Subhash Ghai, "Kisna" is about the Romeo and Juliet-like love story between childhood friends Kisna (Vivek Oberoi), an Indian teacher, and Katherine (Antonia Bernath), a British woman who was born, and spent her prepubescent years, in India. Their special friendship, of course, is forbidden by their families. The strapping, noble young man must protect his fair damsel from escalating mob violence and safely bring her to New Delhi, while being hunted by his own brother Shankar (Yashpal Sarma), as well as Katherine's two-dimensional stalker Prince Raghuraj (Rajat Kapoor).

The film is creatively executed, showing aspects of Indian culture through pounding and infectious production numbers. But its rhythmic score pokes at the most inopportune moments. Since the film is partly a musical, we see almost every character perform his or her angle of the story in lengthy slots. This becomes repetitive after a while, and affects the storytelling significantly.

Still, Kisna and Katherine's rapport is given intense chemistry by the charismatic actors. The other characters, however, while well-defined, can get annoying.

Sushmita Sen appears as a powerful stranger who offers the protagonists temporary sanctuary, one of many minor figures crossing paths with the lovers. The characters mention a few times how the conflicts recall the love story of Rama and Sita. Kisna, in fact, is compared to the deity Krishna. While the movie can be pretentious in that respect, it's an acquired taste that appeals to those who want their Bollywood offerings authentic—heavy and spicy. It goes everywhere, and it doesn't want to end.

ANTONIA Bernath

## ROUNDUP

### MFF mall tours

stars of the 10 featured movies in the forthcoming ro Manila Film Festival will visit various metro malls Dec. 13 till the end of the year.

chedule for the MMFF Mall Tours: Dec. 13, Robin- Ermita; Dec. 14, Star Mall; Dec. 16, Robinsons Pier and Eastwood Premier; Dec. 22, Ali Mall and SM ila; Dec. 23, Market! Market!; Dec. 27, Gateway Sta. Lucia Mall; Dec. 28, Ever Gotesco Ortigas and ietta; Dec. 29, SM Fairview and SM Sucat; Dec. SM Southmall and SM North Edsa.

### arnia' world preem

DON—Stars gathered nesday night for the ld premiere of "The Li- The Witch and The drobe," one of the t eagerly anticipated s since "Harry Potter" The Lord of the Rings."

he grandiose surdings of the Royal Al- Hall in west London e transformed for the sion into a giant ice ce to reflect Narnia, or C.S. Lewis's imag- snow-covered world ood and evil.

ednesday's screening was attended by guests of or Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, and was to money for trade charity the Cinema and Televi- Benevolent Fund.

ritain's royals choose only one premiere each year their Royal Film Performance. "The Lion, The h and The Wardrobe" is Camilla's first since her riage to Charles in April last year. *AFP*

### vards for Studio 23

SOUTHEAST Asian Foundation for Children and vision (SEAFCTV) has picked nine Studio 23 prons for its Anak TV Seal 2005. The seal is the founon's stamp of good-quality family and child-sensi- content.

ne programs cited are "Breakfast Supersize," "Y k Live," "Sports TV," "7th Heaven," "Jimmy Neu-," "Postman Pat," "Gameplan," "Sineskwela" and th-Tinik."

### bson, again

ANGELES—Catholic actor and director Mel Gibs latest project—a TV movie set against the back- of the Holocaust—is raising eyebrows before a le scene has been shot.

ibson's company, Con Artist Productions, and two rs are developing a miniseries for ABC television d on a memoir by Dutch Jew Flory van Beek, se Catholic boyfriend hid her from the Nazis.

ibson, whose film "The Passion of the Christ" was by some critics as anti-Semitic, may not take an utive producer credit on "Flory." But his attacht to the project has attracted the attention of some sh groups.

bbi Marvin Hier, founder of the Simon Wiesen- Center in Los Angeles said the project would give son a chance to redeem himself from the controy over 'The Passion of the Christ,' which did not ray Jews fairly." *Reuters*

### rd Annie Awards

ANGELES—The claymation buddy film "Wallace romit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit" scored a ng 15 nominations Monday, including Best Fea- for the 33rd annual Annie Awards.

e awards, presented by the International Animatlm Society, recognize the year's best in animation film, television, commercials and short subjects.

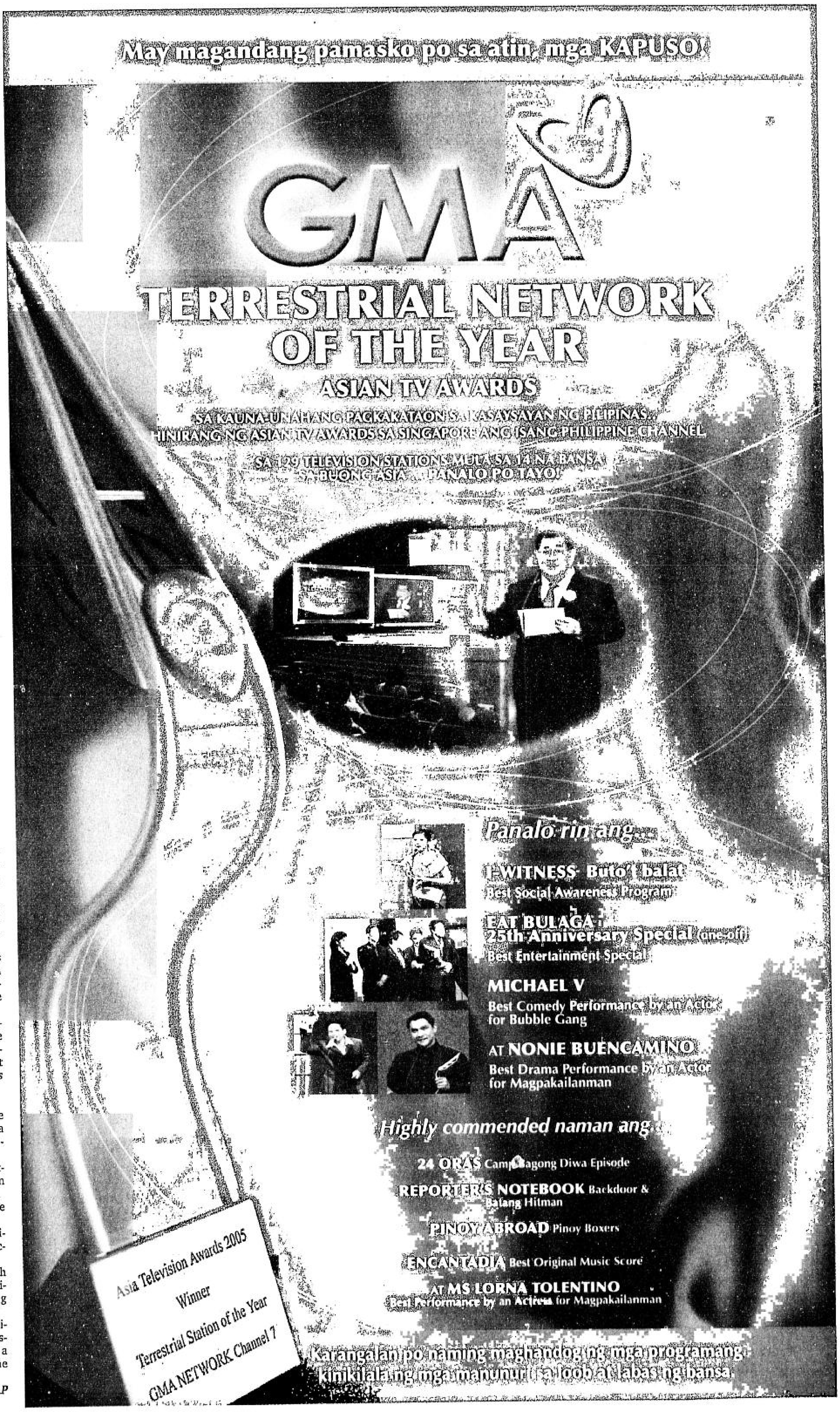
ther contenders include "Chicken Little," "Corpse e;" "Howl's Moving Castle" and "Madagascar."

Vallace & Gromit" garnered nominations for ding, writing, storyboarding, effects, music, characesign and best animated feature.

e film dominated the voice acting category, with ur lead actors—Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fis, Peter Sallis and Nicholas Smith—all earning

mpeting for the top honor in the animated televi- category are "Avatar: The Last Airbender," "Fos- Home for Imaginary Friends," "My Life as a age Robot," "Star Wars: Clone Wars II" and "The nan."

e Annie Awards will be presented Feb. 4. *AP*



May magandang pamasko po sa atin, mga KAPUSO!
GMA
TERRESTRIAL NETWORK OF THE YEAR
ASIAN TV AWARDS
SA KAUNA-UNAHANG PAGKAKATAON SA KASAYSAYAN NG PILIPINAS, HINIRANG NG ASIAN TV AWARDS SA SINGAPORE ANG ISANG PHILIPPINE CHANNEL
SA 129 TELEVISION STATIONS MULA SA 14 NA BANSA SA BUONG ASIA... PANALO PO TAYO!
Asia Television Awards 2005
Winner
Terrestrial Station of the Year
GMA NETWORK Channel 7
Panalo rin ang...
I-WITNESS Buto't balat
Best Social Awareness Program
EAT BULAGA! 25th Anniversary Special (one-off)
Best Entertainment Special
MICHAEL V
Best Comedy Performance by an Actor for Bubble Gang
AT NONIE BUENCAMINO
Best Drama Performance by an Actor for Magpakailanman
Highly commended naman ang...
24 ORAS Camp Bagong Diwa Episode
REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK Backdoor & Batang Hitman
PINOY ABROAD Pinoy Boxers
ENCANTADIA Best Original Music Score
AT MS LORNA TOLENTINO
Best Performance by an Actress for Magpakailanman
Karangalan po naming maghandog ng mga programang kinikilala ng mga manunuri sa loob at labas ng bansa.

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PETER JACKSON

KING KONG
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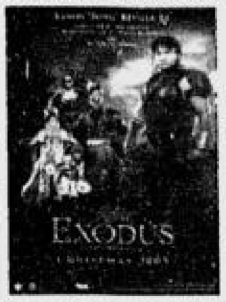

RED CARPET PREMIERE

AKO LEGAL WIFE
Dec. 17 • Megamall • Cinema 10

SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL 2K5
Dec. 20 • Megamall • Cinema 3

KUTOB
Dec. 20 • The Podium • Cinema 2

Dec. 21 TENG KABISOTE 2
• The Podium • Cinema 2

Dec. 22 ...US: TALES FROM THE ...CHANTED KINGDOM
Megamall • Cinema 9 & 10

Dec. 23 BLUE MOON
• Megamall • Cinema 10

Dec. 23 MULAWIN
North Edsa • Cinema 1 & 2

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 IN HER SHOES
12:35 FS/01:05MF/03:40/06:15
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/11:05END
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:10OFS/12:40MF/ 2:40
04:05LFS/04:35LMF/06:00END
AN UNFINISHED LIFE
06:00FS/06:30MF
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END

MEGAMALL
1 THE FOG
10:30FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/05:20
07:30/09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:20END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 ...ONS & DRAGONS
10:50FS/... M F/01:06/03:12/05:18
07:24/... S/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 THE FOG
10:50FS/... M F/01:06/03:12/05:18
07:24/... S/09:30LMF/11:10END
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10:20FS/... M F/01:15/04:00/06:45
09:30 LMF/12:10END

MANILA
6 ...Y CHRISTMAS
12:00... 2:00/04:00/06:00
07:55/... 8:00LMF/09:55END

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METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE FOG
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 MERRY CHRISTMAS
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 IN HER SHOES
8 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
9 CHICKEN LITTLE
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12 THE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 THE FOG
2 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 IN HER SHOES
7 THE MAN
8 HARI NG SABLAY
10 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE FOG
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 THE FOG
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MERRY CHRISTMAS
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 THE FOG
8 CHICKEN LITTLE
9 IN HER SHOES
10 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
11 CORNERSTONE CHURCH ACTIVITY
12 CHRIST CARES

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE FOG
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 IN HER SHOES
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
7 THE MAN
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 HARI NG SABLAY

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 THE MAN
2 THE FOG
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 IN HER SHOES

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
THE FOG
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
JUST LIKE HEAVEN
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
CHICKEN LITTLE
IN HER SHOES
THE MAN

SM CITY MANILA
THE FOG
IN HER SHOES
THE MAN
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
CHICKEN LITTLE
MERRY CHRISTMAS
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
HARI NG SABLAY
JUST LIKE HEAVEN
BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
THE MYTH

SM SAN LAZARO
THE FOG
THE MAN
IN HER SHOES
JUST LIKE HEAVEN
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros

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LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE FOG
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE FOG
2 THE MYTH
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MAN

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE FOG
6 RESERVED
7 CHICKEN LITTLE
8 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY MARILAO
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE FOG
4 FOUR BROTHERS

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
HARI NG SABLAY
CHICKEN LITTLE
THE FOG

SM CITY LUCENA
THE MYTH
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
HARI NG SABLAY
CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY BATANGAS
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
HARI NG SABLAY
THE MYTH
CHICKEN LITTLE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
2 THE FOG
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 THE MYTH

SM CITY ILOILO
1 DOMINO
2 RESERVED
3 THE MYTH
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 THE FOG

SM CITY DAVAO
1 DOMINO
2 CRY WOLF
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 THE MYTH
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 THE FOG

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE MYTH
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

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1 IN HER SHOES
12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:05
PG-13

2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
GP

3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
GP

4 THE FOG
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:05, 11:00
PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX
① CHICKEN LITTLE
MTRCB: GP
11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
② THE FOG
MTRCB: PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
③ HARRY POTTER 4
MTRCB: GP
12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
④ IN HER SHOES
MTRCB: PG-13
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE JUST LIKE HEAVEN
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CINEMA 3 IN HER SHOES PG13
11:15, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
CINEMA 4 THE FOG PG13
10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
CINEMA 5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN - PG13
11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
December 17, 2005 MISHKA ADAMS 8PM
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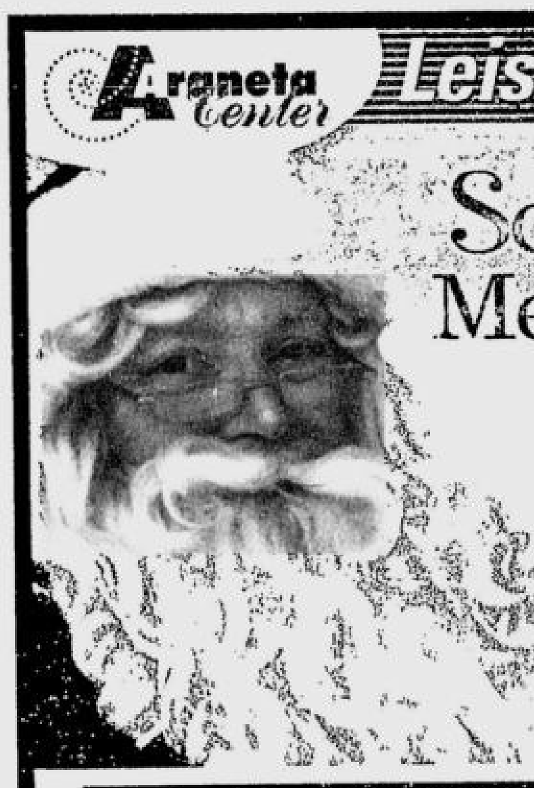
Araneta Center Leisure Guide
Santa Claus Meet & Greet



Every Saturday & Sunday / 3 to 6 pm
December 3 to 18
Level 4, Gateway Mall
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P120 RESERVED SEATS
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GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
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HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40
THE FOG
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
KISNA
1:00 / 6:30
MERRY CHRISTMAS
4:10 / 9:40
UNFINISHED LIFE
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
IN HER SHOES
1:05 / 3:55 / 6:45 / 9:35
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
CHICKEN LITTLE
12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ THE FOG
12:10 R4 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
❷ HARI NG SABLAY
12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
❸ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET
12:00 R4 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
❹ ...MAXIMO OLIVEROS
12:05 R3/ 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
❺ THE MYTH
12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:20
DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
BARNEY'S MUSICAL CASTLE
Opens December 16
SPELLBOUND MAGIC SHOW
Opens December 25

CENTER EVENTS
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# Plinky's the violent one, maids say

**By Armand N. Nocum**

THREE EMPLOYEES OF FORMER MOVIE ACtress Plinky Recto yesterday said it was she who beat up her live-in partner on June 28 and that he pushed her aside only when she started hitting him again.

In a preliminary investigation at the Department of Justice relative to the case of wife battering that Recto filed against her unnamed partner, Recto's two cooks—Nancy Montalban and Zenaida Caceres—said the actress was the one prone to violence.

Their statements were confirmed by Montalban's husband, Romy Camposano.

The three filed their affidavits before State Prosecutor Hazel Decena-Valdez.

Montalban and Caceres, who worked for Recto as cooks, said Recto punched and kicked her lawyer-partner following a heated argument in their condominium.

The maids said the June 28 fight started after the lawyer asked Recto to subject her personal assistant to a drug test.

"(Recto) started punching and kicking sir," Montalban said. "Sir told ma'am, 'Stop it Babes, stop it Babes.'"

Recto was represented by lawyer May Minia Reyes.

Valdez granted Reyes' request of Reyes to extend to Dec. 16 the filing of a reply affidavit.

# 'Bodabil' may soon be back

**By Bayani San Diego Jr.**

"BODABIL," THE MOST POPULAR ENTERtainment medium in pre-war Manila, is raring to stage a comeback.

This was confirmed by Ric Camaligan, first vice president of SM Leisure, which operates SM Cinemas.

"It's part of our reconstruction program," Camaligan told INQUIRER Entertainment. "In renovating our old cinemas, we added permanent stages, as well as backstages, including dressing rooms, for live shows."

He pointed out that several SM cinemas have been the venues of concerts and live shows in the past few months. "Concert producers approached us," he recalled. "In the beginning, they even provided their own stage and lights."

Among the performers who have graced the SM stages are bands Bamboo and South Border, hit makers Barbie Almalbis and Kitchie Nadal, "American Idol" finalist Jasmine Trias and music veteran Jose Mari Chan.

"Martin Nievera had shows in Megamall, North Edsa and Southmall," Camaligan noted. "We have eight to 12 movie houses in each of our malls. We don't want them to remain idle."

## Less movies

SM has 156 cinemas in 24 locations. Next year, it will open 24 more in new sites—Santa Rosa, Clark, Lipa and Mall of Asia—and four more in North Edsa.

Yes, even as the movie industry's output is shrinking—last year, only 55 movies were produced locally.

Mounting live shows is but one creative way for theaters to cope with the ongoing crisis, Camaligan said. "[And] the great thing is, live shows cannot be pirated."

Will this signal the return of *bodabil*, which had its heyday from the 1900s to 1940s, in such entertainment palaces as the Manila Grand Opera House and Clover Theater? (Ironically, it was the movies that ended the supremacy of *bodabil*.)

"Maybe something similar to that," Camaligan said, "but not exactly the same because times have changed. In any case, we will be ready."

# Of debuts and comebacks

**By Pocholo Concepcion**
*Contributor*

## SPIN CITY

THIS IS ABOUT DEBUTS AND comebacks.

Paramita, a young trio led by drummer/singer-songwriter Ria Bautista, was an indie club act until it was snagged by Vicor Records this year. Its recently released CD, "Tala," shines on Bautista's emotional outpourings about failed relationships, accented by a naïve yet earnest vocal style.

In most of the songs, Bautista creates scenarios where lovers' breakups highlight the fragility of women's hearts and the stone-cold nerves of their exes.

At times the words spill with overkill ("Di mapigil ang damdaming nababaliw sa 'yo") or cliché ("When I close my eyes I see you/Even in my sleep I dream of you"). But the music, elevated to magical heights by guitarist Norman Dellosa, bassist Alsey Cortez and Bautista's own commanding beats, compensates for the lyrical excess.

There are moments when Bautista's vocal phrasing is reminiscent of Cooky Chua's, although it may be too early to point out the similarity.

Admirable is Bautista's facility with both Filipino and English songwriting. While the Tagalog numbers could gain Paramita a wide fan base, it's the English tracks that reveal Bautista's sensitivity.

"Tala" is primarily for the high school and college crowd, although it may attract anyone sympathetic to the foibles and heartaches of youth, in a time when relationships start from exchanging text messages.

### Brilliant move

Brownman Revival is a nine-man reggae group that has been playing the live circuit for a number of years before bagging a record deal with Sony BMG Pilipinas recently. "Steady Lang," the group's first album, is off to a good start by virtue of a brilliant move to cover "Maling Akala" from the Eraserheads' own debut album.

The momentum holds after "Lintik" (an original that cleverly illustrates the stormy nature of falling in love) is followed by strikingly similar cuts grooving on the same syncopated Caribbean beat that has never failed to loosen limbs since Bob Marley popularized reggae in the '70s. The only difference is, no socio-political content graces Brownman's work.

Instead, "Steady Lang" focuses on the simple joys of wooing girls ("Ikaw Forever," "Under the Reggae Moon," "Ngayong Gabi") that typify the band's easygoing image.

Mushy pop covers like the Rainmakers' "Binibini" and VST & Co.'s "Ikaw Lang Ang Aking Mahal" sound rather uninspired, while an isolated attempt in introspection with "Dahan Dahan" surprisingly connects.

A CD like "Steady Lang" should come in handy on a good night out in Boracay or Baywalk, although it's no guarantee that weed or alcohol would improve one's perception of the uninspired tracks.

### Missing the music

As for the comeback artists, the word is that Passage and Raymond Lauchengco missed the music so much, they just had to get out there again.

"The Journey Home" (Warner) is Passage's third outing, coming five years after lead female singer Luchie Huang quit to get married and raise a child. She says it's an album made for the fans and what they've wanted to hear all along.

What this means is, back to pop-jazz—the hybrid genre that gave Passage all the club gigs they could handle before the solo-artist-on-acoustic-guitar trend made stars of Paolo Santos, Jimmy Bondoc and Nyoy Volante.

Pop-jazz is laidback stuff that showcases either or both saxophone wails and vocal stretches when the song hits its climax. Which usually relegates to being mere background music, especially when played in a bar where friends chat all night long. In the case of "The Journey Home," listeners are advised to shut up, savor Passage's version of Seawind's "Follow Your Road" and wonder whether it was Pauline Wilson or Louie Reyes they just heard.

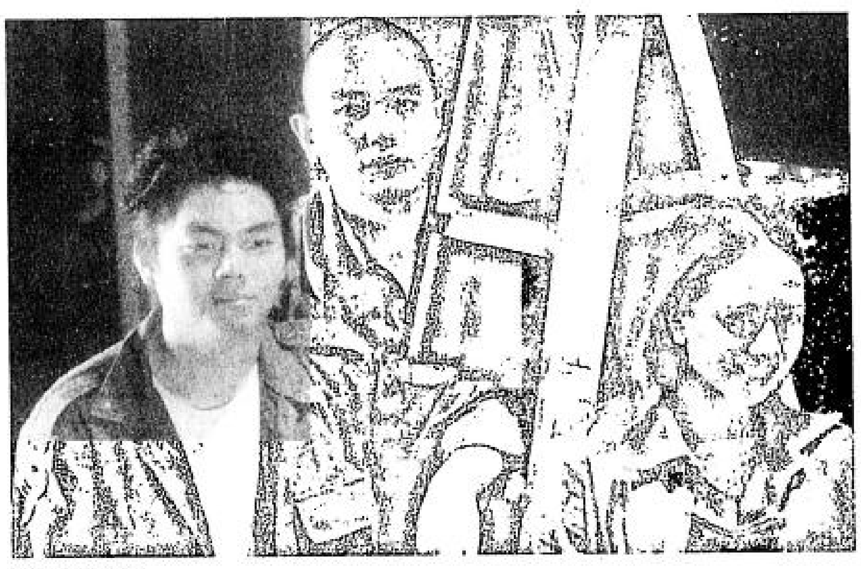
### Once a balladeer

Lauchengco's self-titled recording comes 22 years since the release of his debut album with Vicor. Lauchengco, now married and enjoying a side career as photographer, says he will always be a singer partial to ballads.

The CD is just that—16 tracks of mostly romantic tunes, 10 of which are old material ostensibly included to give the package a good chance to sell.

Maybe it will, considering that Lauchengco's biggest hits are here, notably "Farewell," "So It's You," "I Need You Back" and "Saan Darating Ang Umaga." Other tracks should be interesting to his fans—the Broadway tune "As If We Never Said Goodbye" (from "Sunset Boulevard"), "Tunay Kitang Minamahal" (written by Ogie Alcasid) and Paul Williams' "Save Me A Dream."

The question is whether Lauchengco would sustain this comeback with new and preferably more original material soon.



PARAMITA

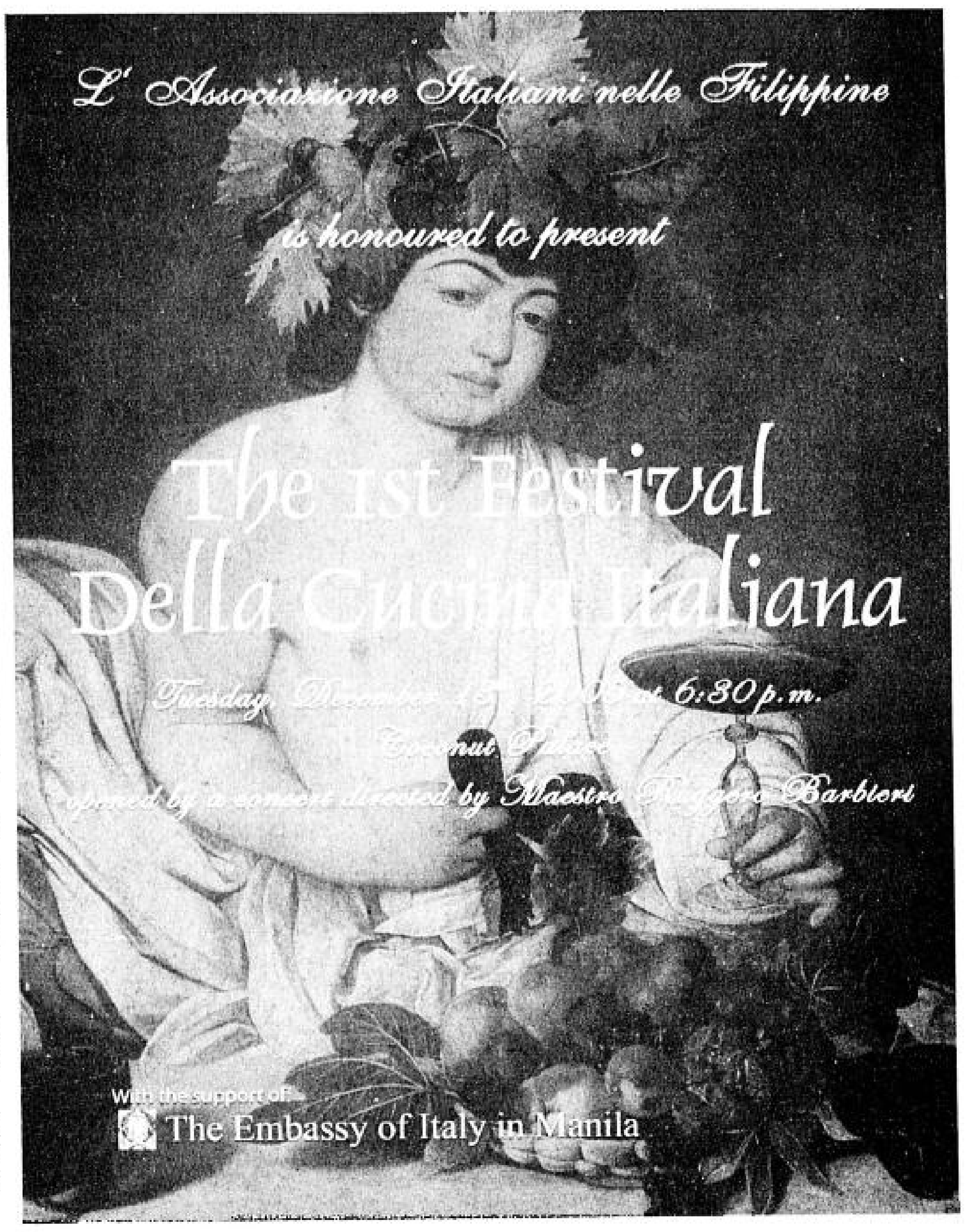
FRANCIS M

### 'Soul Full' gold

Gary Valenciano's latest album from Universal Records has been certified gold. UR general manager Kathleen Dy-Go presented the award during ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime show, "ASAP Mania."

### Tribute to 'Heads'

Sony BMG has released "ultraelectromagneticjam," a tribute to The Eraserheads. The performers in this collection of "Heads" hits are: Paolo Santos, Radioactive Sago, Imago, Isha, MYMP, Orange & Lemons, Rico J. Puno, Kitchie Nadal, Barbie Almabis, Sponge Cola, 6Cyclemind, FrancisM with Hardware Syndrome, Cueshe, Brownman Revival, South Border and Sugarfree.



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# 'Gift Love' at Pasiklab

SURF PRESENTS "GIFT LOVE ON CHRISTmas, Paskoncert sa Pasiklab," a concert featuring Sarah Geronimo, at the Paskong Pasiklab theme park in Quezon City. The big musical event will also star Rachelle Ann Go, Christian Bautista, Mark Bautista, Nikki Bacolod, Raymond Manalo, Jaya and Ogie Alcasid.

"*Talaga namang ito ang* Christmas concert *na walang katumbas*," says Sarah. *Magkita-kita po tayo sa* Paskoncert! Dec. 17 *na po ito!*"

The park will be open to the public for free the whole day of Dec. 17, starting at 10 a.m. All that is required for admission will be a Surf product wrapper per person.

At 7 p.m. the Paskoncert proper will commence at the concert area.

SARAH Geronimo

## SHOW TIME

### December 12

Silk at Virgin Café

### December 13

Dimsum at Suburbia

South Border live at General Trias Cultural and Convention Center, Cavite; 7 p.m.

604at Virgin Café

### December 14

Twisted and Unlabeled at Suburbia

Dimsum and Music Matrix at Virgin Café

Wednesday Jazz Festival with Eddie K, Richard Merk and Sandra Lim at Merk's, Greenbelt 3.

### December 15

"Bacharach Dreams" with Jake Macapagal, Lana Jalosjos, Nino Alejandro, Crisel Consunji and Michael de Mesa at Premiere THX, Amorsolo St., Makati

Nyoy Volante and Drizzle at Suburbia

Freestyle and Freeverse at Virgin Café

### December 16

Liquid Apples at Taste Buds, Robinsons Place Manila

Freeverse and Michael Angelo at Suburbia

Ron Antonio and Natural High at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 6 p.m.

Maksim at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Call 9115555.

"Bacharach Dreams" with Jake Macapagal, Lana Jalosjos, Nino Alejandro, Crisel Consunji and Michael de Mesa at Premiere THX, Amorsolo St., Makati

### December 17

Jose Mari Chan at SM Cebu Cinema 2

Nyoy Volante at Clamshell 2 in Intramuros with King, Rush Band, Anton Diva, Le Chazz, Ron Antonio and Freemale Dancers

9th Avenue at Suburbia

Wiseguys and Rage at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"Bacharach Dreams" with Jake Macapagal, Lana Jalosjos, Nino Alejandro, Crisel Consunji and Michael de Mesa at Premiere THX, Amorsolo St., Makati

### December 18

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"Bacharach Dreams" with Jake Macapagal, Lana Jalosjos, Nino Alejandro, Crisel Consunji and Michael de Mesa at Premiere THX, Amorsolo St., Makati

### December 19

9th Avenue at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### December 20

Dimsum at Suburbia

604 at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### December 21

Freeverse and Akafellas at Suburbia

Dimsum and Escape at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### December 22

Drizzle at Suburbia

Freestyle and Freeverse at Virgin Café

Route 70 at Merk's, Greenbelt 3.

### December 23

Shayne with Brown Sugar Factory and First Circle at Suburbia

NTwine and Michael Angelo at Virgin Café

Route 70 at Merk's, Greenbelt 3.

### December 24

Human Race at Suburbia

### December 26

Silk at Suburbia

9th Avenue at Virgin Café

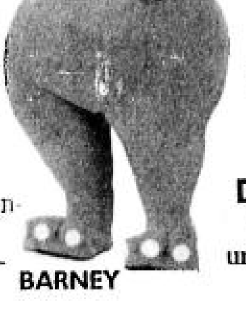
### December 27

Dimsum at Suburbia

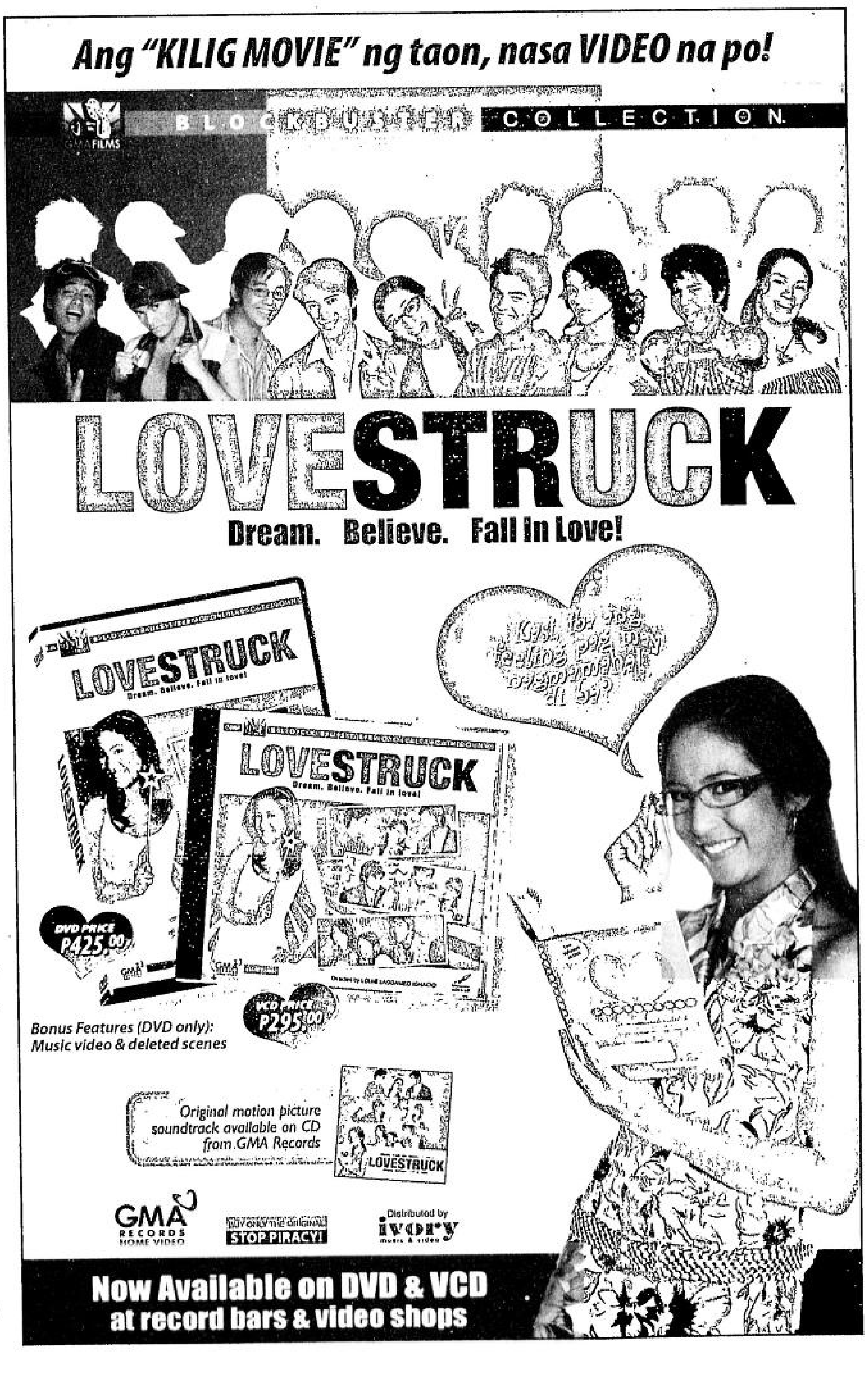
604 at Virgin Café

### December 28

Freeverse and South Border at Suburbia



BARNEY



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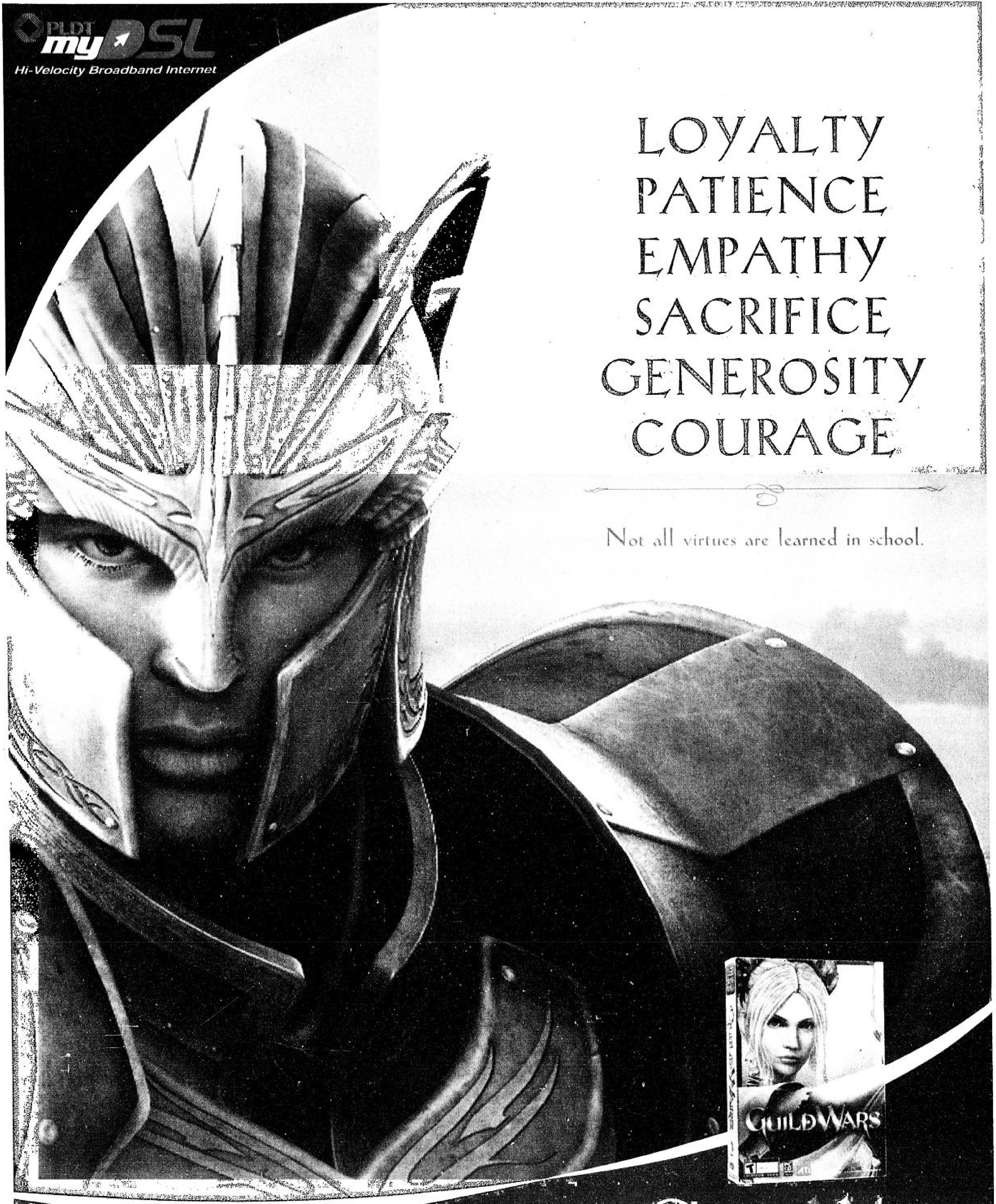

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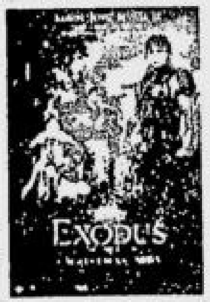

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AKO LEGAL WIFE
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SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL 2K5
Dec. 20 • Megamall • Cinema 3

KUTOB
Dec. 20 • The Podium • Cinema 2

ENTENG KABISOTE 2
Dec. 21 • The Podium • Cinema 2

EXODUS: TALES FROM THE ENCHANTED KINGDOM
Dec. 22 • Megamall • Cinema 9 & 10

BLUE MOON
Dec. 23 • Megamall • Cinema 10

MULAWIN
Dec. 23 • North Edsa • Cinema 1 & 2

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 IN HER SHOES
12:35 FS/01:05MF/03:40/06:15
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/11:05END
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:10OFS/12:40MF/ 2:40
04:05LFS/04:35LMF/06:00END
AN UNFINISHED LIFE
06:00FS/06:30MF
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END
MEGAMALL
1 THE FOG
10:30FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/05:20
07:30/09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:20END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18
07:24/09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 THE FOG
10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18
07:24/09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:10END
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10:20FS/10:30MF/01:15/04:00/06:45
09:23LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END
MANILA
6 MERRY CHRISTMAS
12:00MF/02:00/04:00/06:00
07:55LFS/08:00LMF/09:55END

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METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE FOG
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 MERRY CHRISTMAS
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 IN HER SHOES
8 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
9 CHICKEN LITTLE
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12 THE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 THE FOG
2 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 IN HER SHOES
7 THE MAN
8 HARI NG SABLAY
9 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE FOG
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 THE FOG
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MERRY CHRISTMAS
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 THE FOG
8 CHICKEN LITTLE
9 IN HER SHOES
10 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
11 CORNERSTONE CHURCH ACTIVITY
12 CHRIST CARES

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE FOG
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 IN HER SHOES
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
7 THE MAN
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 HARI NG SABLAY

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 THE MAN
2 THE FOG
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 IN HER SHOES

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE FOG
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 IN HER SHOES
8 THE MAN

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE FOG
2 IN HER SHOES
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 MERRY CHRISTMAS
7 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 HARI NG SABLAY
10 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
11 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
12 THE MYTH

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE FOG
2 THE MAN
3 IN HER SHOES
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE FOG
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE FOG
2 THE MYTH
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MAN

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE FOG
6 RESERVED
7 CHICKEN LITTLE
8 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY MARILAO
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE FOG
4 FOUR BROTHERS

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE FOG

SM CITY LUCENA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE MYTH
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
2 THE FOG
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 THE MYTH

SM CITY ILOILO
1 DOMINO
2 RESERVED
3 THE MYTH
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 THE FOG

SM CITY DAVAO
1 DOMINO
2 CRY WOLF
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 THE MYTH
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 THE FOG

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE MYTH
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

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1 IN HER SHOES
12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:05
PG-13
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
GP
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
GP
4 THE FOG
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:05, 11:00
PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX
① CHICKEN LITTLE
MTRCB: GP
11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
② THE FOG
MTRCB: PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
③ HARRY POTTER 4
MTRCB: GP
12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
④ IN HER SHOES
MTRCB: PG-13
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
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CINEMA 3 IN HER SHOES PG13
11:15, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
CINEMA 4 THE FOG PG13
10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
CINEMA 5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN - PG13
11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00
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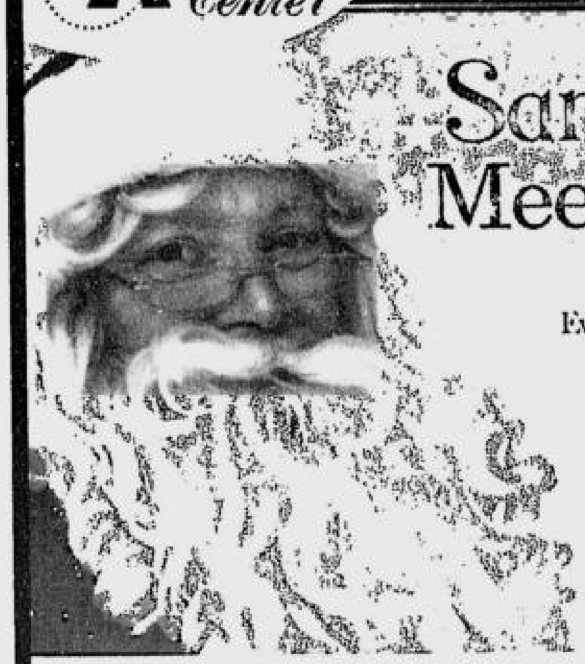

Araneta Center Leisure Guide
Santa Claus Meet & Greet
Every Saturday & Sunday / 3 to 6 pm
December 3 to 18
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near Everything Christmas Holiday Bazaar
December 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24 & 25
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4:30 - 6:00 pm Ali Mall Lower Ground Floor

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ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
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HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40
THE FOG
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
KISNA 1:00 / 6:30
MERRY CHRISTMAS 4:10 / 9:40
UNFINISHED LIFE
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
IN HER SHOES
1:05 / 3:55 / 6:45 / 9:35
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
CHICKEN LITTLE
12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① THE FOG
12:10 R4 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
② HARI NG SABLAY
12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
③ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET
12:00 R4 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
④ ...MAXIMO OLIVEROS
12:05 R3/ 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
⑤ THE MYTH
12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:20
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
BARNEY'S MUSICAL CASTLE
Opens December 16
SPELLBOUND MAGIC SHOW
Opens December 25

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# Plinky's the violent one, maids say

By Armand N. Nocum

THREE EMPLOYEES OF FORMER MOVIE ACtress Plinky Recto yesterday said it was she who beat up her live-in partner on June 28 and that he pushed her aside only when she started hitting him again.

In a preliminary investigation at the Department of Justice relative to the case of wife battering that Recto filed against her unnamed partner, Recto's two cooks—Nancy Montalban and Zenaida Caceres—said the actress was the one prone to violence.

Their statements were confirmed by Montalban's husband, Romy Camposano.

The three filed their affidavits before State Prosecutor Hazel Decena-Valdez.

Montalban and Caceres, who worked for Recto as cooks, said Recto punched and kicked her lawyer-partner following a heated argument in their condominium.

The maids said the June 28 fight started after the lawyer asked Recto to subject her personal assistant to a drug test.

"(Recto) started punching and kicking sir," Montalban said. "Sir told ma'am, 'Stop it Babes, stop it Babes.'"

Recto was represented by lawyer May Minia Reyes.

Valdez granted Reyes' request of Reyes to extend to Dec. 16 the filing of a reply affidavit.

# 'Bodabil' may soon be back

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"BODABIL," THE MOST POPULAR ENTERtainment medium in pre-war Manila, is raring to stage a comeback.

This was confirmed by Ric Camaligan, first vice president of SM Leisure, which operates SM Cinemas.

"It's part of our reconstruction program," Camaligan told INQUIRER Entertainment. "In renovating our old cinemas, we added permanent stages, as well as backstages, including dressing rooms, for live shows."

He pointed out that several SM cinemas have been the venues of concerts and live shows in the past few months. "Concert producers approached us," he recalled. "In the beginning, they even provided their own stage and lights."

Among the performers who have graced the SM stages are bands Bamboo and South Border, hit makers Barbie Almalbis and Kitchie Nadal, "American Idol" finalist Jasmine Trias and music veteran Jose Mari Chan.

"Martin Nievera had shows in Megamall, North Edsa and Southmall," Camaligan noted. "We have eight to 12 movie houses in each of our malls. We don't want them to remain idle."

## Less movies

SM has 156 cinemas in 24 locations. Next year, it will open 24 more in new sites—Santa Rosa, Clark, Lipa and Mall of Asia—and four more in North Edsa.

Yes, even as the movie industry's output is shrinking—last year, only 55 movies were produced locally.

Mounting live shows is but one creative way for theaters to cope with the ongoing crisis, Camaligan said. "[And] the great thing is, live shows cannot be pirated."

Will this signal the return of *bodabil*, which had its heyday from the 1900s to 1940s, in such entertainment palaces as the Manila Grand Opera House and Clover Theater? (Ironically, it was the movies that ended the supremacy of *bodabil*.)

"Maybe something similar to that," Camaligan said, "but not exactly the same because times have changed. In any case, we will be ready."

**SPIN CITY**

# Of debuts and comebacks

By Pocholo Concepcion
*Contributor*

THIS IS ABOUT DEBUTS AND comebacks.

Paramita, a young trio led by drummer/singer-songwriter Ria Bautista, was an indie club act until it was snagged by Vicor Records this year. Its recently released CD, "Tala," shines on Bautista's emotional outpourings about failed relationships, accented by a naïve yet earnest vocal style.

In most of the songs, Bautista creates scenarios where lovers' breakups highlight the fragility of women's hearts and the stone-cold nerves of their exes.

At times the words spill with overkill ("Di mapigil ang damdaming nababaliw sa 'yo") or cliché ("When I close my eyes I see you/Even in my sleep I dream of you"). But the music, elevated to magical heights by guitarist Norman Dellosa, bassist Alsey Cortez and Bautista's own commanding beats, compensates for the lyrical excess.

There are moments when Bautista's vocal phrasing is reminiscent of Cooky Chua's, although it may be too early to point out the similarity.

Admirable is Bautista's facility with both Filipino and English songwriting. While the Tagalog numbers could gain Paramita a wide fan base, it's the English tracks that reveal Bautista's sensitivity.

"Tala" is primarily for the high school and college crowd, although it may attract anyone sympathetic to the foibles and heartaches of youth, in a time when relationships start from exchanging text messages.

## Brilliant move

Brownman Revival is a nine-man reggae group that has been playing the live circuit for a number of years before bagging a record deal with Sony BMG Pilipinas recently. "Steady Lang," the group's first album, is off to a good start by virtue of a brilliant move to cover "Maling Akala" from the Eraserheads' own debut album.

The momentum holds after "Lintik" (an original that cleverly illustrates the stormy nature of falling in love) is followed by strikingly similar cuts grooving on the same syncopated Caribbean beat that has never failed to loosen limbs since Bob Marley popularized reggae in the '70s. The only difference is, no socio-political content graces Brownman's work.

Instead, "Steady Lang" focuses on the simple joys of wooing girls ("Ikaw Forever," "Under the Reggae Moon," "Ngayong Gabi") that typify the band's easygoing image.

Mushy pop covers like the Rainmakers' "Binibini" and VST & Co.'s "Ikaw Lang Ang Aking Mahal" sound rather uninspired, while an isolated attempt in introspection with "Dahan Dahan" surprisingly connects.

A CD like "Steady Lang" should come in handy on a good night out in Boracay or Baywalk, although it's no guarantee that weed or alcohol would improve one's perception of the uninspired tracks.

## Missing the music

As for the comeback artists, the word is that Passage and Raymond Lauchengco missed the music so much, they just had to get out there again.

"The Journey Home" (Warner) is Passage's third outing, coming five years after lead female singer Luchie Huang quit to get married and raise a child. She says it's an album made for the fans and what they've wanted to hear all along.

What this means is, back to pop-jazz—the hybrid genre that gave Passage all the club gigs they could handle before the solo-artist-on-acoustic-guitar trend made stars of Paolo Santos, Jimmy Bondoc and Nyoy Volante.

Pop-jazz is laidback stuff that showcases either or both saxophone wails and vocal stretches when the song hits its climax. Which usually relegates to being mere background music, especially when played in a bar where friends chat all night long. In the case of "The Journey Home," listeners are advised to shut up, savor Passage's version of Seawind's "Follow Your Road" and wonder whether it was Pauline Wilson or Louie Reyes they just heard.

## Once a balladeer

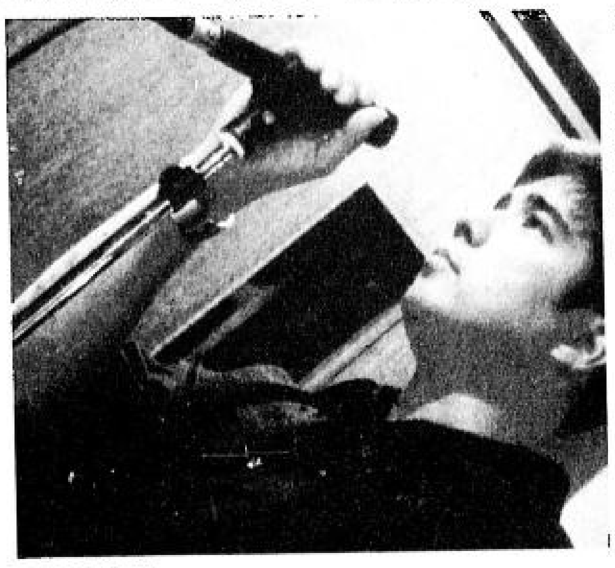
Lauchengco's self-titled recording comes 22 years since the release of his debut album with Vicor. Lauchengco, now married and enjoying a side career as photographer, says he will always be a singer partial to ballads.

The CD is just that—16 tracks of mostly romantic tunes, 10 of which are old material ostensibly included to give the package a good chance to sell.

Maybe it will, considering that Lauchengco's biggest hits are here, notably "Farewell," "So It's You," "I Need You Back" and "Saan Darating Ang Umaga." Other tracks should be interesting to his fans—the Broadway tune "As If We Never Said Goodbye" (from "Sunset Boulevard"), "Tunay Kitang Minamahal" (written by Ogie Alcasid) and Paul Williams' "Save Me A Dream."

The question is whether Lauchengco would sustain this comeback with new and preferably more original material soon.

PARAMITA


FRANCIS M

## 'Soul Full' gold

Gary Valenciano's latest album from Universal Records has been certified gold. UR general manager Kathleen Dy-Go presented the award during ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime show, "ASAP Mania."

## Tribute to 'Heads'

Sony BMG has released "ultraelectromagneticjam," a tribute to The Eraserheads. The performers in this collection of "Heads" hits are: Paolo Santos, Radioactive Sago, Imago, Isha, MYMP, Orange & Lemons, Rico J. Puno, Kitchie Nadal, Barbie Almabis, Sponge Cola, 6Cyclemind, FrancisM with Hardware Syndrome, Cueshe, Brownman Revival, South Border and Sugarfree.

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**SHOW TIME**

# 'Gift Love' at Pasiklab

SURF PRESENTS "GIFT LOVE ON CHRISTmas, Paskoncert sa Pasiklab," a concert featuring Sarah Geronimo, at the Paskong Pasiklab theme park in Quezon City. The big musical event will also star Rachelle Ann Go, Christian Bautista, Mark Bautista, Nikki Bacolod, Raymond Manalo, Jaya and Ogie Alcasid.

"*Talaga namang ito ang* Christmas concert *na walang katumbas*," says Sarah. *Magkita-kita po tayo sa* Paskoncert! Dec. 17 *na po ito!*"

The park will be open to the public for free the whole day of Dec. 17, starting at 10 a.m. All that is required for admission will be a Surf product wrapper per person.

At 7 p.m. the Paskoncert proper will commence at the concert area.

SARAH Geronimo

### December 12

Silk at Virgin Café

### December 13

Dimsum at Suburbia

South Border live at General Trias Cultural and Convention Center, Cavite; 7 p.m.

604at Virgin Café

### December 14

Twisted and Unlabeled at Suburbia

Dimsum and Music Matrix at Virgin Café

Wednesday Jazz Festival with Eddie K, Richard Merk and Sandra Lim at Merk's, Greenbelt 3.

### December 15

"Bacharach Dreams" with Jake Macapagal, Lana Jalosjos, Nino Alejandro, Crisel Consunji and Michael de Mesa at Premiere THX, Amorsolo St., Makati

Nyoy Volante and Drizzle at Suburbia

Freestyle and Freeverse at Virgin Café

### December 16

Liquid Apples at Taste Buds, Robinsons Place Manila

Freeverse and Michael Angelo at Suburbia

Ron Antonio and Natural High at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 6 p.m.

Maksim at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Call 9115555.

"Bacharach Dreams" with Jake Macapagal, Lana Jalosjos, Nino Alejandro, Crisel Consunji and Michael de Mesa at Premiere THX, Amorsolo St., Makati

### December 17

Jose Mari Chan at SM Cebu Cinema 2

Nyoy Volante at Clamshell 2 in Intramuros with King, Rush Band, Anton Diva, Le Chazz, Ron Antonio and Freemale Dancers

9th Avenue at Suburbia

Wiseguys and Rage at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"Bacharach Dreams" with Jake Macapagal, Lana Jalosjos, Nino Alejandro, Crisel Consunji and Michael de Mesa at Premiere THX, Amorsolo St., Makati

### December 18

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"Bacharach Dreams" with Jake Macapagal, Lana Jalosjos, Nino Alejandro, Crisel Consunji and Michael de Mesa at Premiere THX, Amorsolo St., Makati

### December 19

9th Avenue at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### December 20

Dimsum at Suburbia

604 at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### December 21

Freeverse and Akafellas at Suburbia

Dimsum and Escape at Virgin Café

"Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005" at the Araneta Coliseum; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### December 22

Drizzle at Suburbia

Freestyle and Freeverse at Virgin Café

Route 70 at Merk's, Greenbelt 3.

### December 23

Shayne with Brown Sugar Factory and First Circle at Suburbia

NTwine and Michael Angelo at Virgin Café

Route 70 at Merk's, Greenbelt 3.

### December 24

Human Race at Suburbia

### December 26

Silk at Suburbia

9th Avenue at Virgin Café

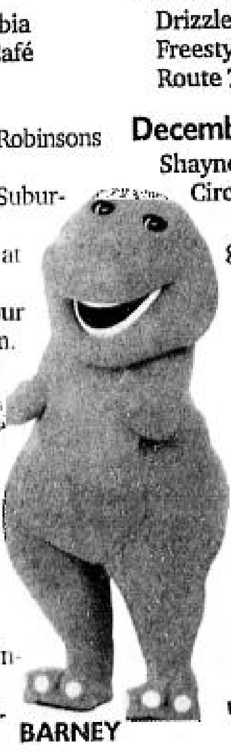
### December 27

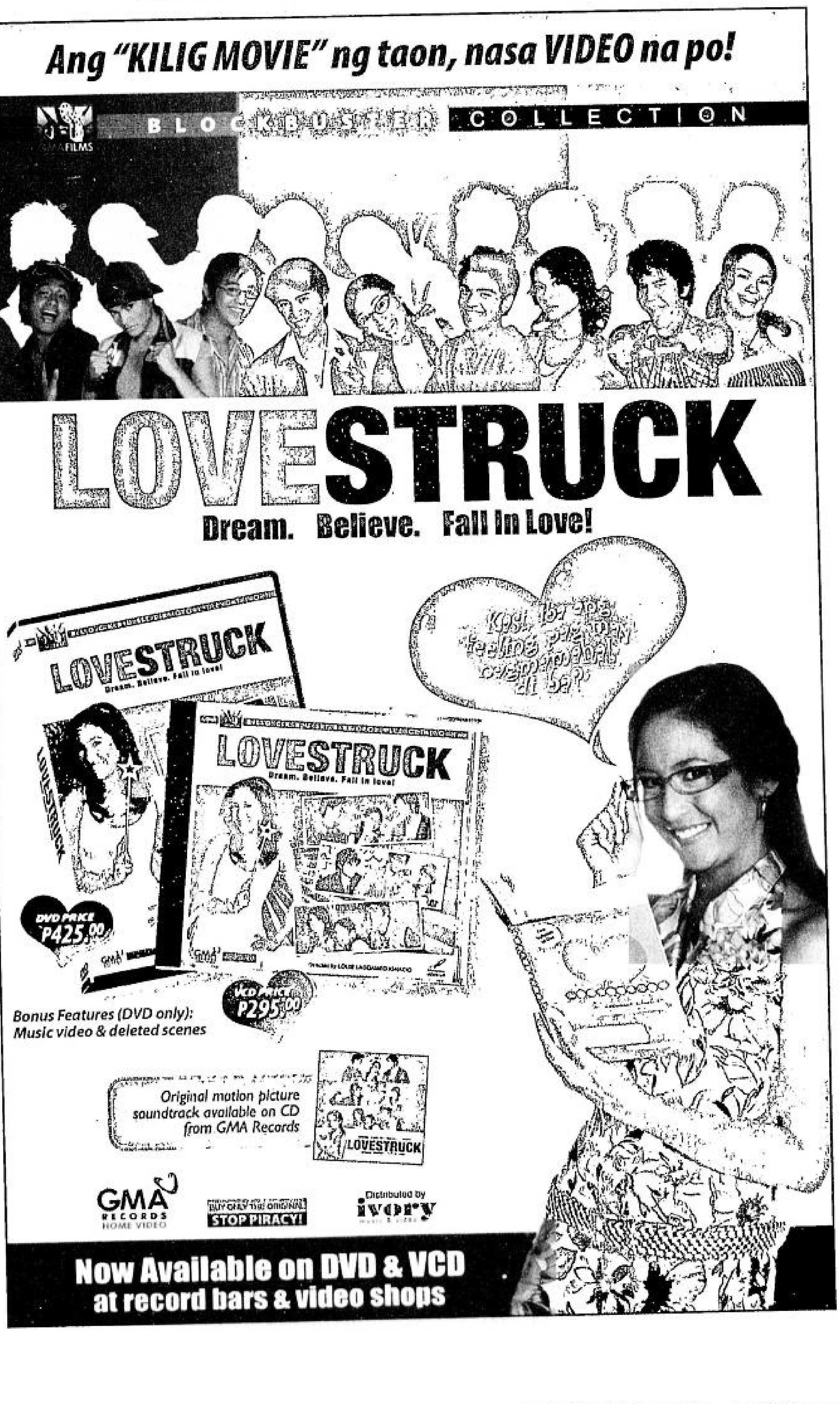
Dimsum at Suburbia

604 at Virgin Café

### December 28

Freeverse and South Border at Suburbia


BARNEY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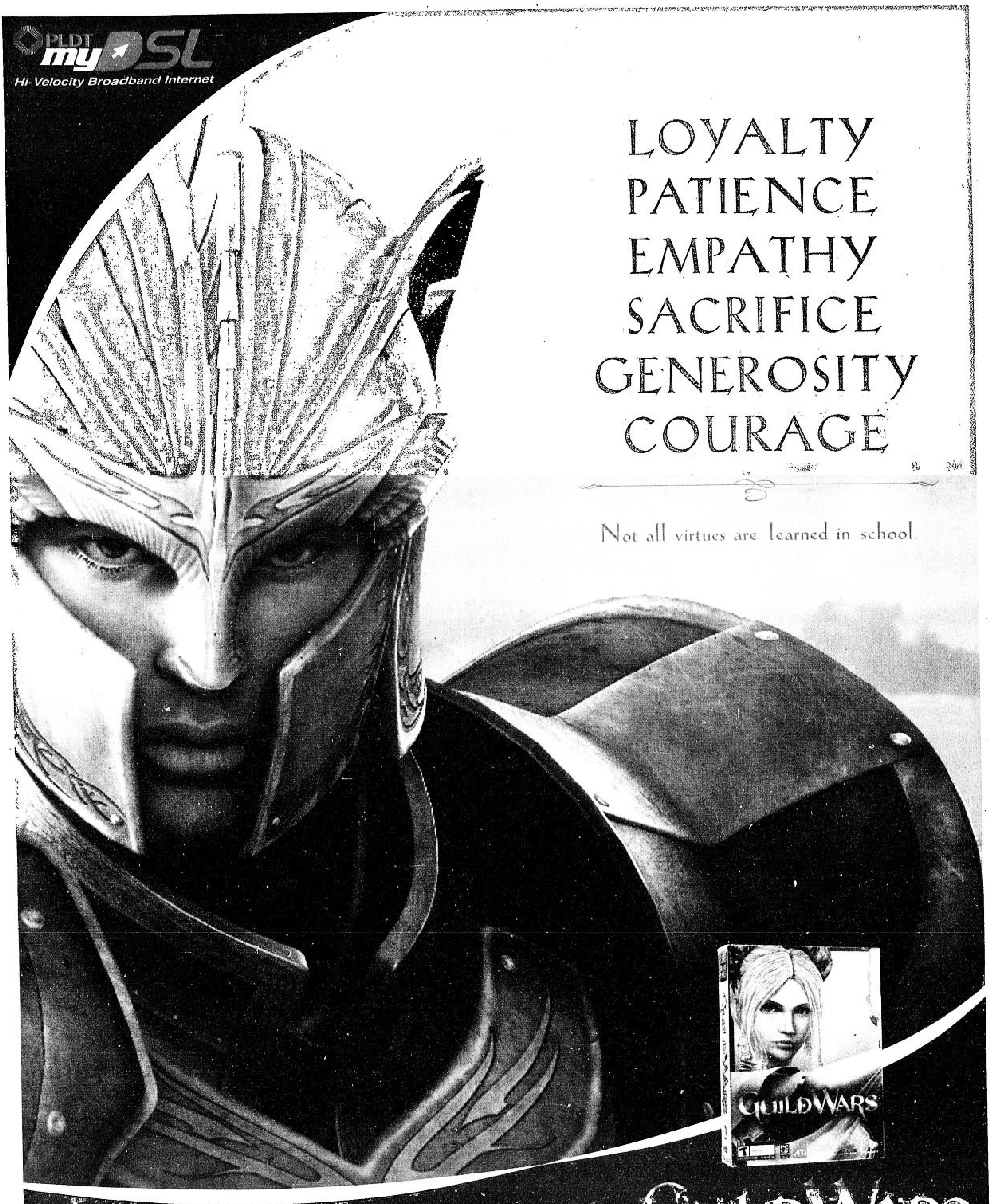

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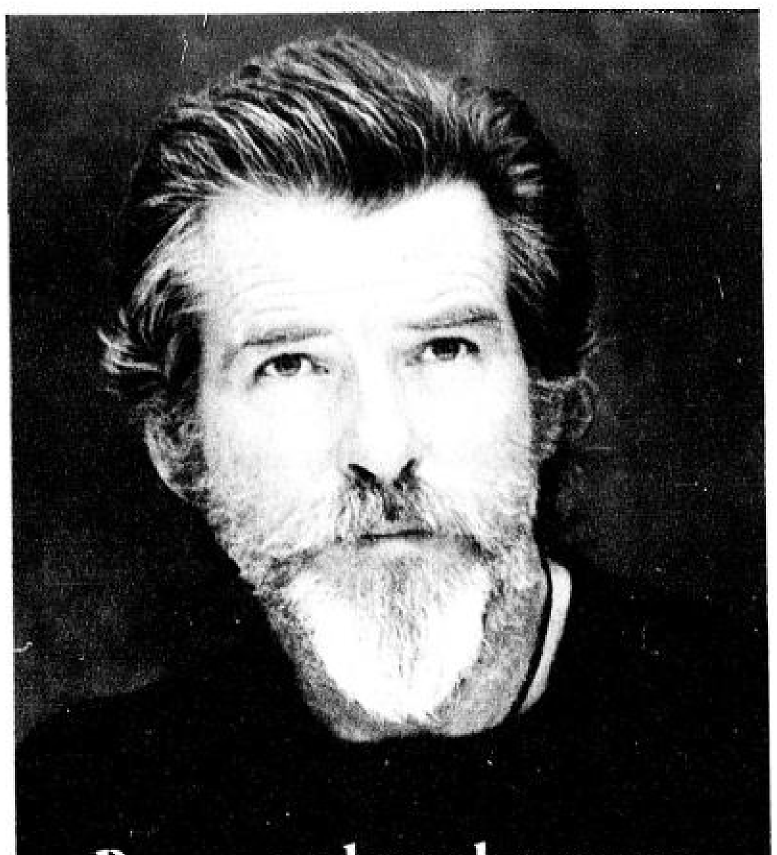

# Brosnan breaks away from Bond in film where Mexico subs for Manila

**ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD**

*Ruben V. Nepales*

LOS ANGELES—LAST TUESDAY evening (Dec. 6), **Steven Spielberg's** "Munich" was shown to us (Hollywood Foreign Press Association), just before we cast our ballots for nominations to the 63rd Golden Globe Awards.

Spielberg's drama on the aftermath of the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes during the 1972 Munich Olympics was the last in a barrage of important films screened for us so we could consider them when we fill out the nomination ballots.

As I write, a thick, clipped stack of pages titled "Eligibility Reminder List" on my desk is taunting me. It's a list of names eligible for nomination in the following categories: English Language Motion Pictures (Drama and Comedy/Musical), Foreign Language Motion Pictures, Television Series (Drama and Comedy) and Motion Pictures Made for Television Mini Series. I am excited to be voting for the first time this year.

## Very urgent

MY colleague Bayani San Diego Jr.'s story, "Desperately seeking Brocka," once more stressed the urgent need to save and restore prints not only of **Lino Brocka's** films but of other important Filipino films as well. It's tragic that there is no longer a copy available of Brocka's "Angela Markado." (Good news: As we go to press, we are told that a copy of this movie has been located, according to Hollywood producer **Roger Garcia**, who put together a Brocka retrospective in Torino.—*Ed.*)

It's good to learn that Unitel is helping in the film preservation efforts. We should heed the plea of Unitel's **Tony Gloria** to get the word out that, if people have old prints of Pinoy films stashed in *bauls* or *aparadors*, they should call him so these celluloid windows into our past can be digitally restored.

As a Pinoy away from home, I am glad that I can log on to www.cinefilipino.com and see that movies like the following are available online and are preserved on DVD format: **Marilou Diaz Abaya's** "Karnal,"

BROSNAN/ A2-2

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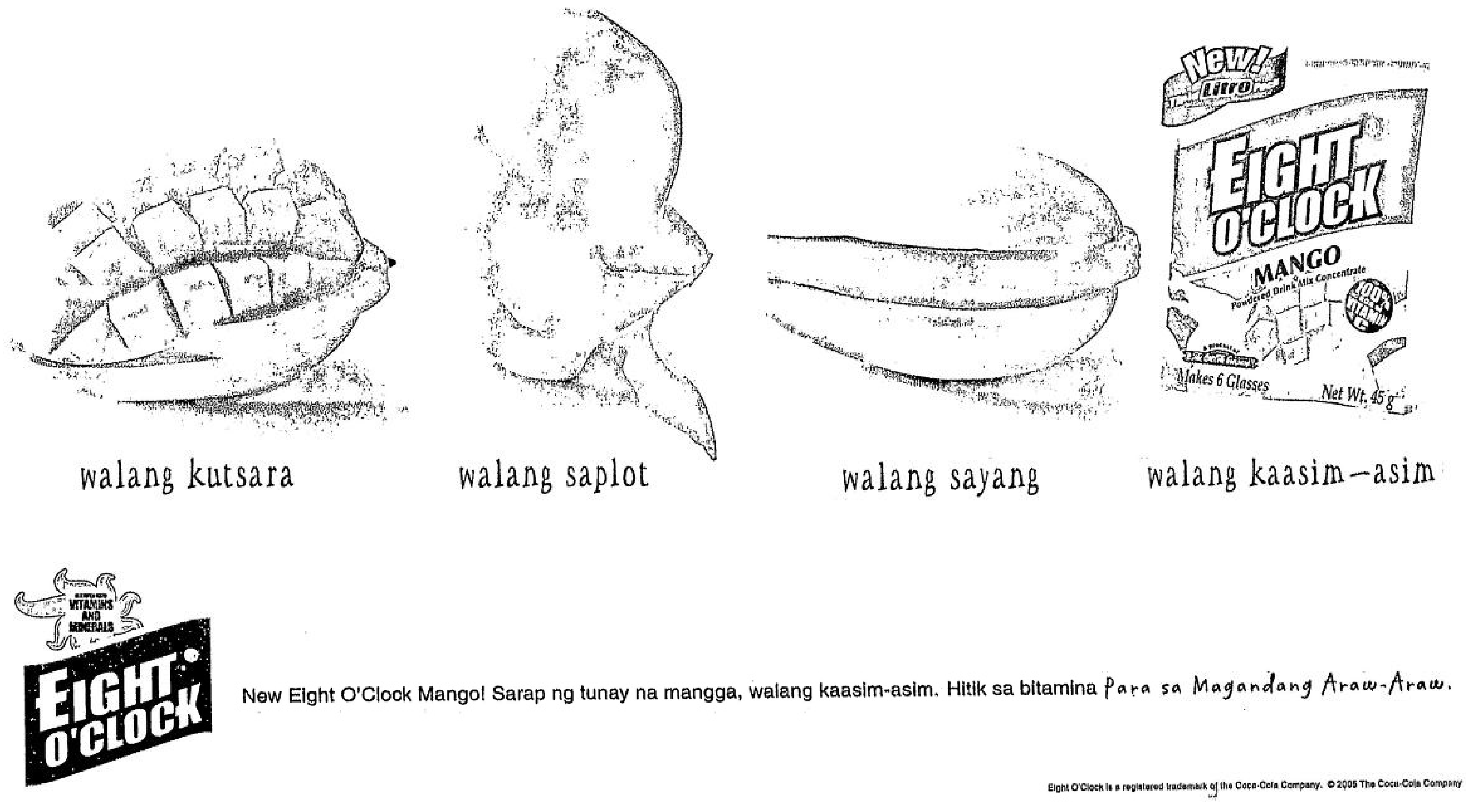
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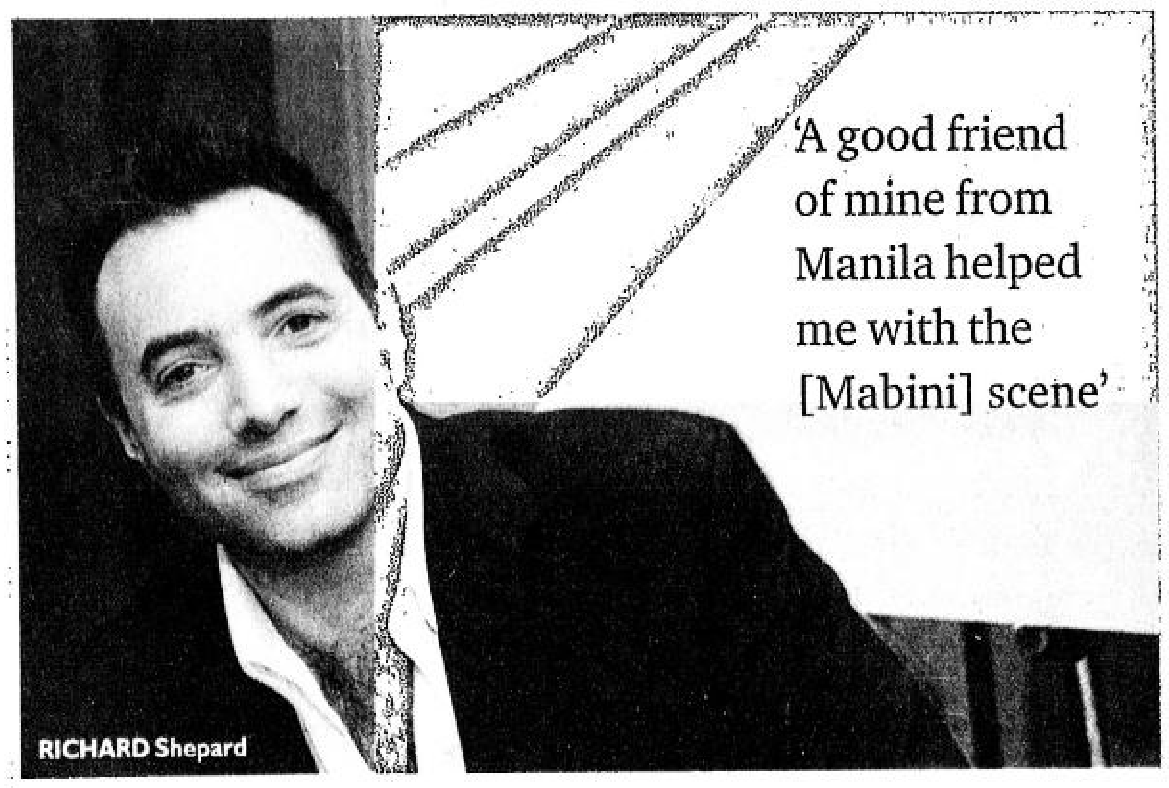

'A good friend of mine from Manila helped me with the [Mabini] scene'

**RICHARD** Shepard

**PIERCE** Brosnan with co-star Greg Kinnear: Homosexual undercurrents

# Brosnan breaks away …

From page A2-1

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Brocka's "Cain at Abel" and **Ishmael Bernal**'s "Relasyon." Even such oldies as **Carmen Rosales** and **Rogelio de la Rosa**'s "Ang Tangi Kong Pag-ibig" and **Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes** and **Tessie Agana**'s "Amy, Susie, Tessie" can be ordered via cinefilipino's website. These titles would make welcome Christmas presents to Filipinos anywhere around the world.

I am also heartened to hear that **Mike de Leon**'s "Sister Stella L" and "Kisapmata," **Raymond Red**'s "Sakay," Bernal's "Manila By Night" (also known as "City After Dark") and **Dolphy** and **Lolita Rodriguez**'s "Jack n' Jill" are not in danger of being lost forever since these films will soon be among cinefilipino's DVD offerings.

## Where, exactly?

SO there I was watching **Pierce Brosnan**'s "The Matador," one of the films crammed into our schedule before nomination time, when suddenly Pierce's character, a globe-trotting assassin, was in … Manila?

The succession of cities around the world shown in the film, with each city introduced in big capital letters—VIENNA, BUDAPEST, DENVER and so on—should have prepared me for a shot of Pierce out on a street in "MANILA." Pierce then goes to the Mabini district and a market. The places didn't seem to be filmed in Manila though, except for the first shot of Pierce on a busy street, which can pass—*puede na*—for Quiapo. This is the only false note in "Matador," which is an otherwise entertaining black comedy with Pierce, as a burned-out hit man, totally deconstructing his James Bond image and, in the process, turning in his finest performance in years.

We eventually learned that the entire movie was shot in Mexico. Still, when we interviewed **Richard Shepard**, writer and director of "Matador"—which has generated good buzz since it was screened in the Sundance Film Festival early this year—we immediately asked how he came to know about Mabini.

"A good friend of mine is from Manila," said Richard, a flamboyant guy who lucked out when Pierce surprisingly agreed to be part of this small movie. When the actor said yes, it started the ball rolling for top on- and off-camera talents to sign up as well, agreeing to be paid at a fraction of what they would normally charge. Pierce ended up producing "Matador" as well.

Richard told me at this recent New York press con that his Filipino buddy, **Filemon Rodriguez**, also appears in the Mabini scene (we understand, though, that Mabini is no longer sleazy these days). "He lives here in New York City. He'll enjoy it that I'm telling you this. He's actually a drag queen. I said to him, 'I'm shooting a scene that takes place in a whorehouse in Manila and some of the prostitutes should be men. Do you have any interest in flying down to Mexico?' (Laughs.) So he flew down there to do a little cameo. I've never been to Manila, although it's one of the places that I really want to visit. When I first wrote the script, I was hoping that we'd actually be able to go to Budapest, Denver and Manila. My wife's from Denver. I thought oh, we'll shoot in Denver. Instead, we're making snow in Mexico City when it's 85 degrees so we have to be a little creative. We couldn't get a margarita that night in Mexico. We were using all the ice to make the snow."

There's even a tune called "Manila Fiasco" in the soundtrack. No, it's not about the latest woes of **President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**. Richard explained, "The song's called 'Manila Fiasco' because the composer, **Rolfe Kent**, scored the scene that took place there and also because of the fact that Pierce has a nervous breakdown there."

## Anywhere but…

A little explanation is in order: Pierce's hit man, whose job takes him all over the world, is in Manila to kill a guy. But when he gets ready to execute his target in an outdoor market that looks like any place but Manila, he sees his younger self in the man he is about to assassinate. So he falters.

According to Richard, Filemon was in Mexico only for the brief scene where he appears, and not when Richard filmed the other Manila scenes. For those sequences, the director consulted Filemon by phone. No wonder then, that the market scene, for example, looks like it took place elsewhere.

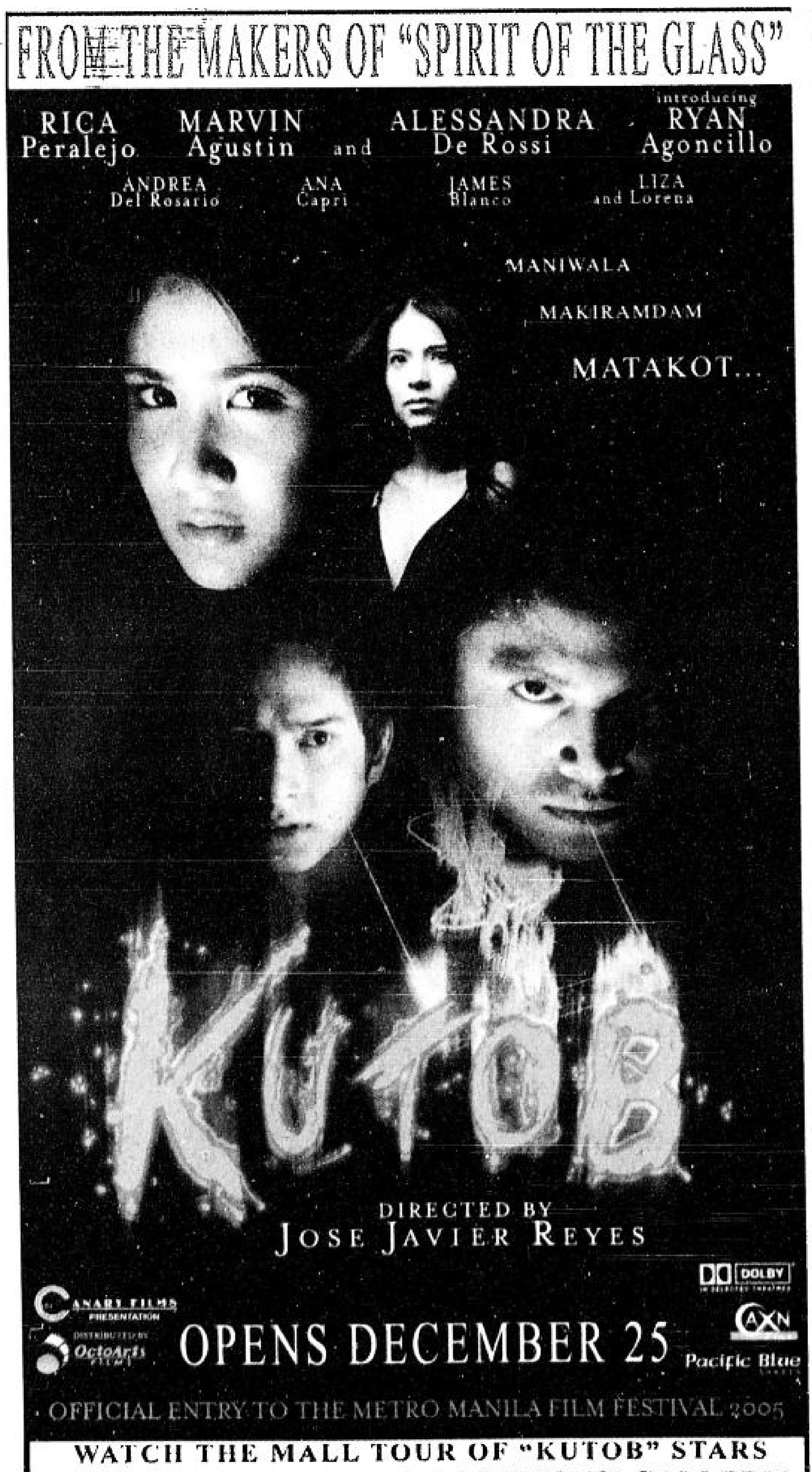
But Richard got everything else about the film right, including the now much-buzzed scene where Pierce walks across a hotel lobby in briefs, boots and nothing else. The scene says a lot about Pierce. He discards his suave, debonair James Bond persona and plunges gleefully into this drunken geezer character, so unlike Agent 007 (a role which he has accepted—with grace—as no longer his).

I asked Richard how he got Pierce to do this scene. He narrated, "I've made some small independent films but I am not an established director by any stretch of the imagination. So Pierce took a risk working with me but he's the type of actor who, once he says yes, dives right in. I do know that the fearlessness of this portrayal is not just in the performance he gave but even in him taking the role. Actors are always surrounded by agents and managers who say, 'Oh, here's a quirky movie. It's a dark comedy. You're mean to children. You have sexual ambiguity. The director's not established. Don't do it.' But Pierce said, 'I want to do this movie,' and from that moment on he was free to try anything. That scene in the lobby was actually not in the script. We were shooting and staying in that hotel. I loved the lobby so I said to Pierce, 'Hey, do you have any interest in walking through the lobby in your underwear (laughter)?' He looked at me and said, 'Can I wear my boots?' We did it in one take. There were five extras and then everyone in the deep background were actual hotel guests checking in, going, 'What the heck's going on (laughter) at this hotel? I must stay here more often.'

"Pierce tried everything I asked. He was really enjoying being freed from the constraints of other roles he's done before. In the Bond movies, they spent six hours lighting his hair and in our movie we were doing seven-and-a-half pages a day. We were spending only 10 minutes lighting his hair. So it was a lot more about the performance, the risk-taking, the enjoyment and because we made the film without a studio—we were independently financed—we were down in Mexico on our own terms."

## Ambiguous

Let's backtrack: Did Richard say the former James Bond plays a sexually ambiguous character? One could read slight homosexual undercurrents when



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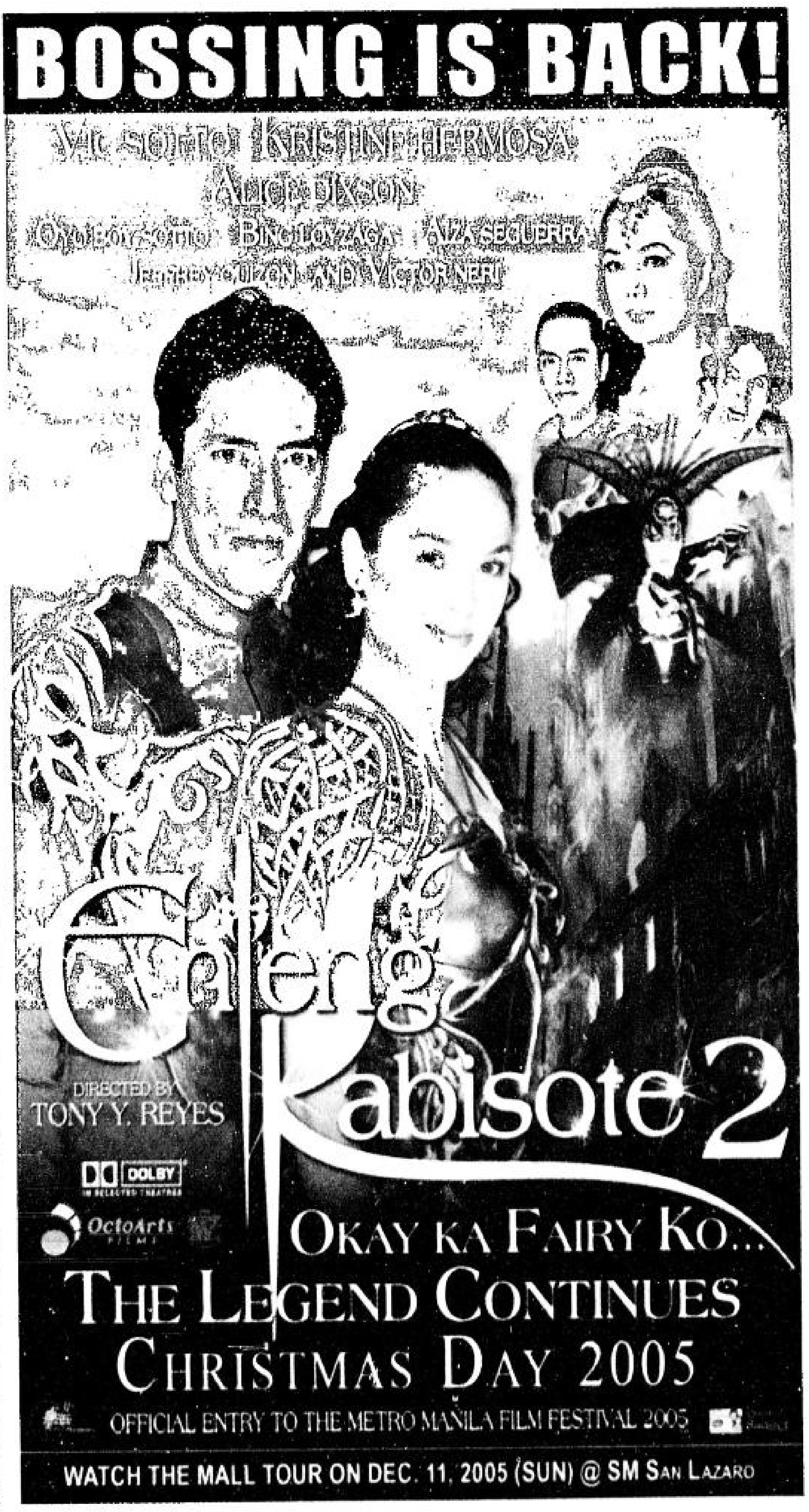

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Pierce, as Julian Noble, lonely and getting weary of his hatchet man job, befriends an out-of-town executive (a very convincing **Greg Kinnear**) over margaritas at a hotel bar. While Pierce is shown having sex with a woman while a dog bites his leg (yes, it's that kind of twisted comedy), nothing overtly sexual is shown between him and Greg.

However, when a reporter asked Richard if Julian's sexual ambiguity was more explicit in the original script but he toned it down, the writer/director replied, "I don't think I reneged on it. I mean, he talks about margaritas and c--k. He talks about liking Manila because the boys [in the bars] look like girls. At a certain point, Greg Kinnear grows a mustache that looks just like Pierce's in some sort of 1970's Village People way (laughter). I don't know how more explicit you can be. There were a few lines that we cut out that were incredibly explicit that had to do with him having straight sex and gay sex because those lines would have gotten us an X rating. You can get an X rating on language so we cut those out before we shot them but in general, Pierce and I always quoted David Bowie which is that Julian's a trisexual. He'll try anything (laughter)."

### Colonel Sanders look

When Pierce entered the room looking like Col. Sanders (he grew the beard for his first western film), he joked, "Kentucky Fried Chicken, anyone?" The mere sight of him with this scruffy beard was enough to say that his James Bond days are over—now he doesn't have to worry about taking roles that may subvert his suave, debonair 007 image.

I asked Pierce how novel an experience it was to shoot and stay in one place and not travel to many parts of the world (unlike in the James Bond movies, where filming entailed travels to exotic locations).

"'The Matador' is a small film in some respects," he answered. "We had budget and time restraints. Mexico City and its people really embraced us. I sent the script to **David Tattersall** who was the cinematographer on my last Bond film. David fell in love with the script. For a young director like Richard, who's going to make not necessarily his first film but a significant film for him, that was great. David allowed us to pick little pieces of architecture that would look like Budapest or Manila by just putting the camera at a certain angle. It was a treat to build Denver in the suburbs of Mexico City."

Blessed with a squint that makes him seem always about to blurt something amusingly ironic, Pierce does have a wry, self-deprecating sense of humor. Asked for his version of the hotel lobby scene, he answered, "There's a certain maturity around the abdomen in that sequence. I forgot to suck it in basically (laughter). I remember thinking, okay, I'm going to do this. It has to be done. I thought it was a great sequence with a great shock value from a man who's known to dress up in suits. These boots were kind of phallic with my skinny old legs coming out of them. I'm wearing underwear. It's not a Speedo. This man just literally got out of bed and went to the pool (laughter)."

Despite his admission that he is starting to be flabby in the middle and that he has skinny legs, Pierce was told by my female colleague, "When you're undressed, you still have a very impressive body." Pierce hung his head down and shook it, smiling. He quipped, "You say the darnedest things (laughter). Thank you. I don't know how impressive [my body] is (laughing). You can see why I never showed my legs in a Bond movie, that's for sure (laughter)."

He was gracious when asked about his successor: "**Daniel Craig** is a fantastic actor. I know the guy. We've gone out and talked about [the James Bond role] over many beers before the whole world knew about it. We laughed about it. I wish him well."

Did he remember the first time he was introduced as James Bond? "I remember every moment of it," Pierce said. "I remember sitting down with members of the world press. I remember the press conference and the sinking feeling of going back to my hotel room alone, lying there, thinking oh, my God, what have I said yes to? Where is it going? (laughter)"

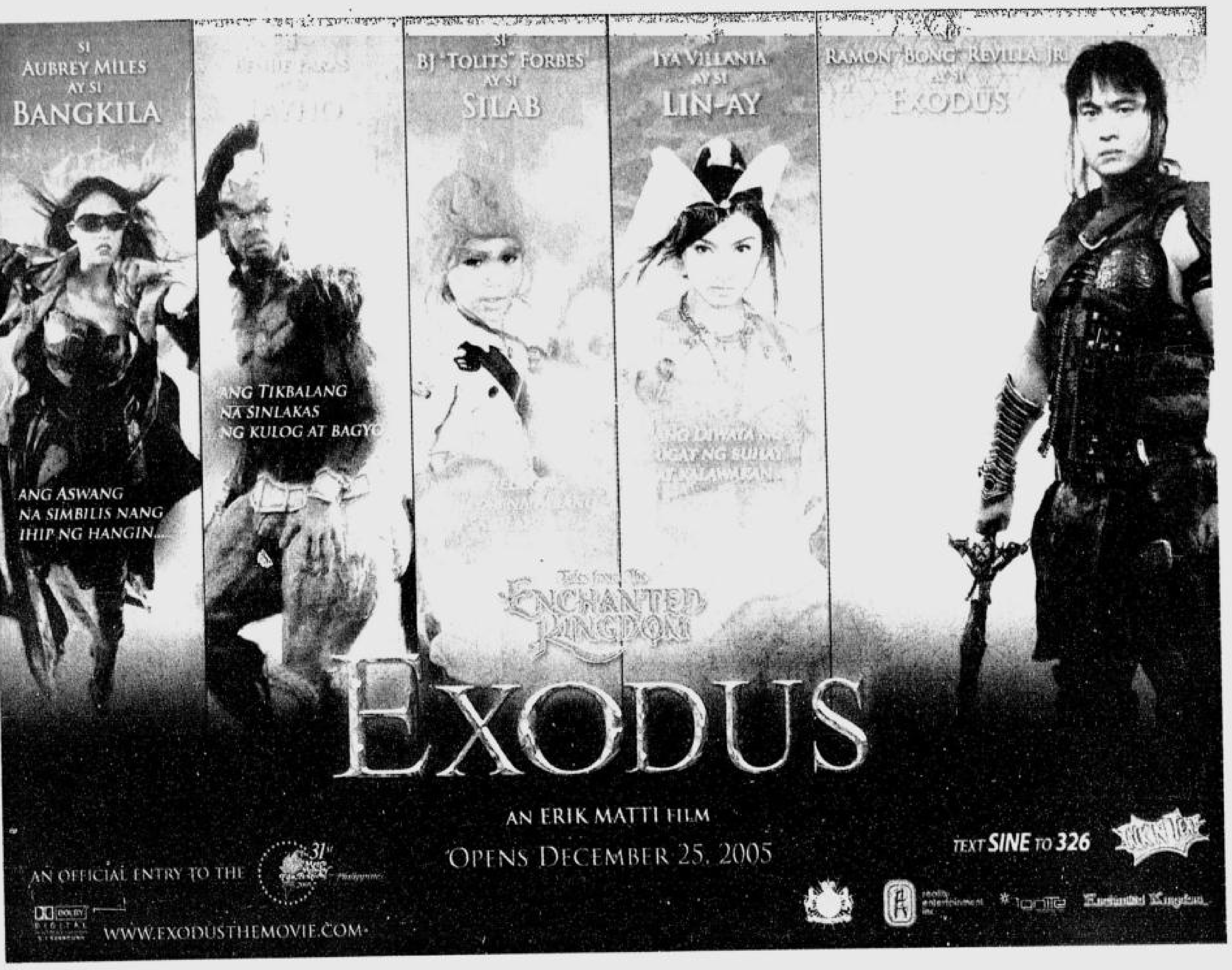
When I commented that it must be somehow liberating for him that his James Bond era is over, the 53-year-old Irish enthused, "Oh, I feel like an actor, an artist again. I feel like a human being again. That's not meant in any derogatory way. It's just that when you play that particular role, it's a huge responsibility. You become somewhat of an ambassador from a small country. I keep going back to my little company, Irish Dreamtime, because it has been so exciting. It has given me great confidence to look for material that is different and try to give another good performance. The great actors have more than one performance and I'd like to think I had more than one performance. It just took time to get there. We have good projects lined up ahead. There's a great sense of freedom, liberation, satisfaction and also, where the heck is it all going, that kind of bite where you're hungry again because you don't have that safety net. You're out there and you're at a certain point in age and (laughing) you wonder, what are you going to play next, how are you going to play it."

### Scared superstar

Pierce, married since 2001 to **Keely Shaye** (with whom he has two young sons), admitted being scared "but in a good way. It's always been scary but that's why I've been an actor and managed to stay employed. It's scary—how am I going to provide? Is the movie going to work? Those things become overwhelming but then you throw it all away and just get on with it (laughter)."

Perhaps Pierce can reprise this "Matador" character in a sequel, someone volunteered. With those squinting eyes, he humorously rattled off the possible scenarios: "We might pick him up in Greece with lovely little Greeks by the poolside, with a Chihuahua dog (laughter). He is feeding the dog with grapes from his mouth (laughter). I think it's a good one. I'm in a bikini, all oiled up (laughter). The housekeeper is over there somewhere and the gardener's over there somewhere. The gardener is confused. He's perplexed."

*E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.*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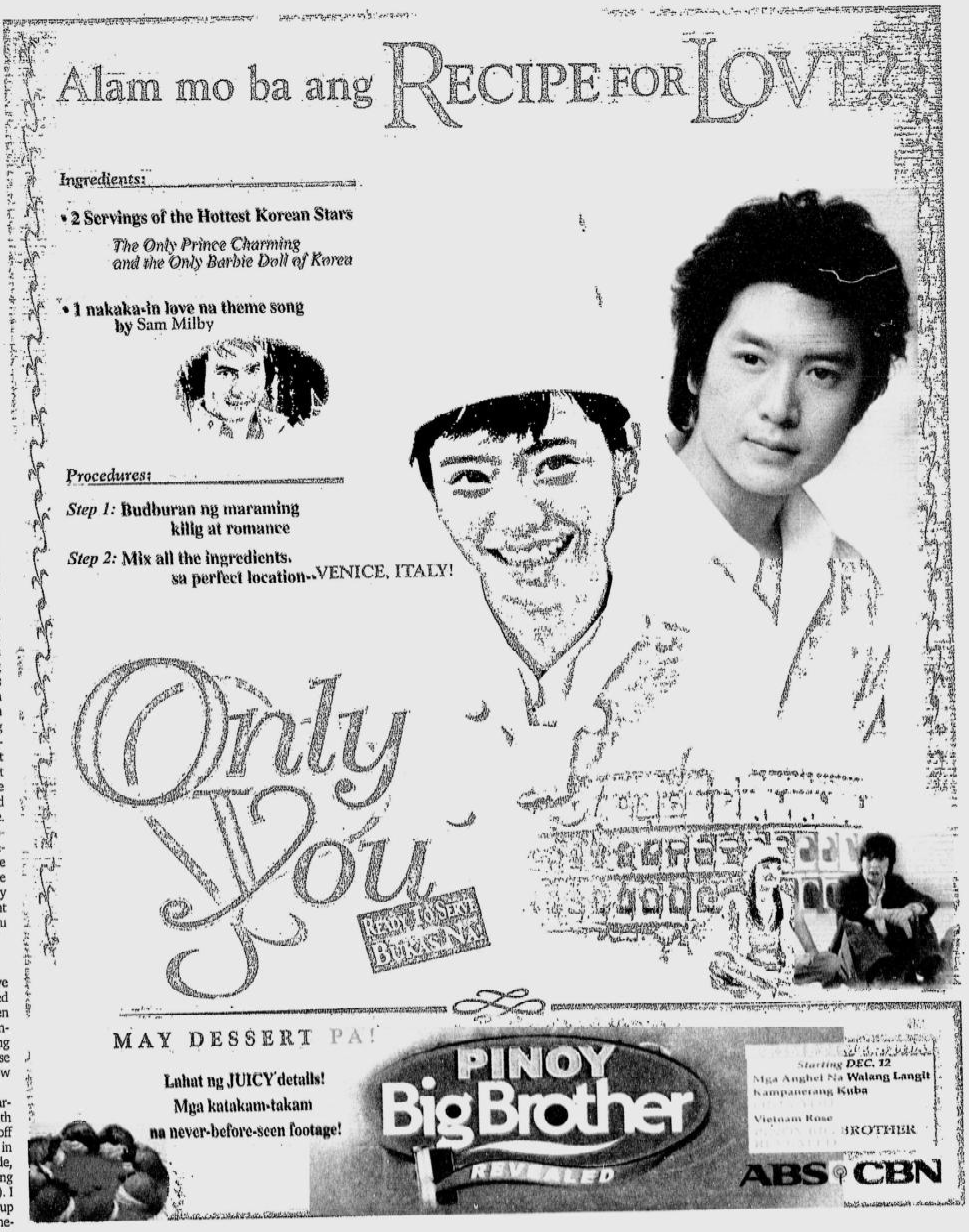
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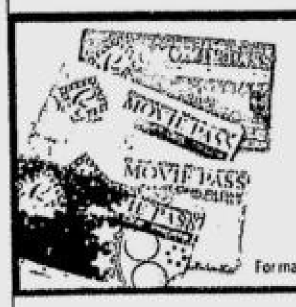

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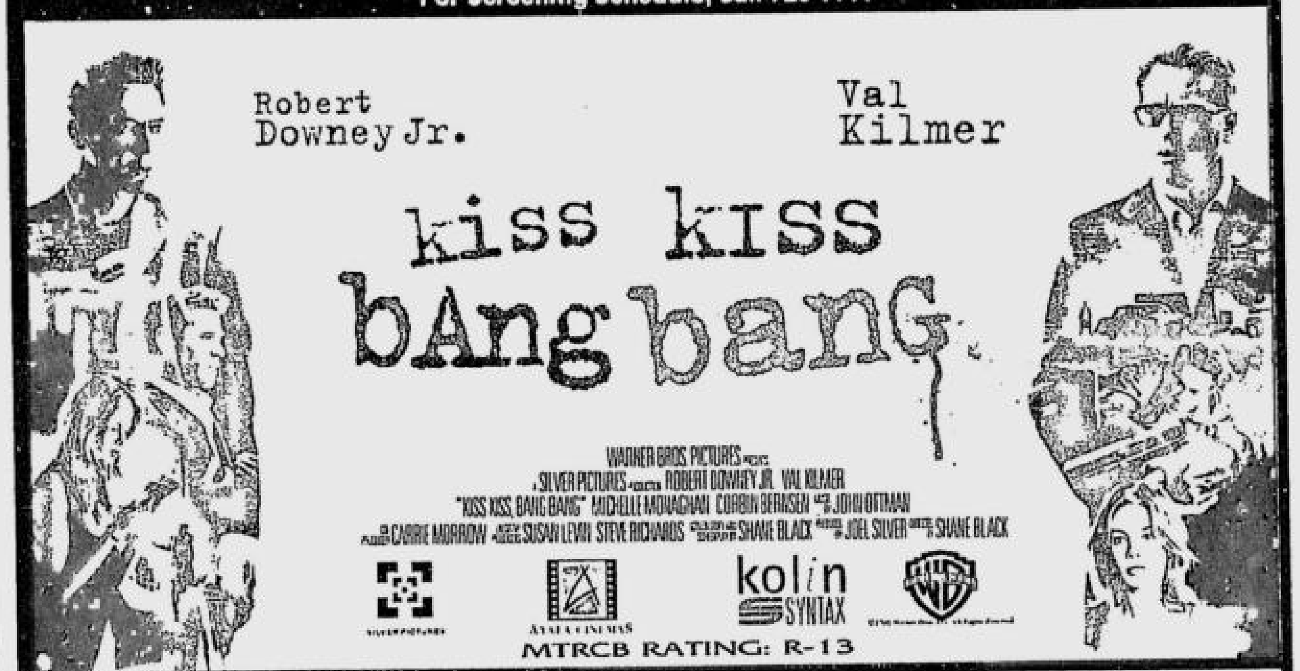
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# Love and forgiveness

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

ROBERT REDFORD DOESN'T act in many movies these days, so it's a special treat when he does star in a new film. That's why we went out of our way to watch his latest starrer, "An Unfinished Life," directed by **Lasse Hallston.**

In the film, Redford plays a former rancher who lives alone, except for his old friend (**Morgan Freeman**), whom he's helping to recover after being brutally attacked by a bear.

Redford's sad but quiet life is rudely disturbed when his late son's love (played by **Jennifer Lopez**) resurfaces after more than 10 years.

Even more discombobulating is the fact that Lopez's character has come back with an 11-year-old daughter. Redford is stunned to belatedly discover that he has a granddaughter he never even knew existed.

Lopez has been forced to look Redford up because her new boyfriend has become physically violent. She pleads with Redford to give her a month to start life again with her daughter somewhere else.

Redford grudgingly agrees, but he blames Lopez for his son's death, so there's no love lost between them. The catalyst for change turns out to be his newfound granddaughter, who eventually warms his old, cold heart.

To be sure, the film establishes that Redford's character isn't a monster, but is only hurting from his son's death.

His basic goodness is shown early on when he takes loving care of his friend (Freeman) in his time of great need.

Later in the film, Lopez's violence-prone boyfriend traces her to Redford's place, and resumes harassing her, prompting Redford to overcome his resentment and defend her.

Another major theme that ultimately gets resolved is the issue of the bear, who comes to represent, not just danger, but old hurts and fears that both Redford and Freeman have to confront so they can finally get a fresh start at living without rancor or remorse.

Thus, the film subliminally tells viewers that forgiveness is an important requirement if you want to be happy. And that love and good family relations help us survive life's most brutal blows.—Good reminders, those.

On point of performance, Redford paces the cast with his rough but sensitive portrayal of the old rancher who's being poisoned by grief and anger.

Freeman also scores with his depiction of a friend in need who eventually teaches his old chum a thing or two about confronting and subduing his demons before they totally consume him.

The film's debit points include a low and slow middle section, and Lopez's relatively self-conscious performance. She isn't bad, but in her scenes with Redford or Freeman, she's out of her depth.

Despite these and other low points, "An Unfinished Life" is still worth the patient and empathetic viewer's while. —All that, and Robert Redford, too.

## Parchment art exhibit

THE FIRST parchment art exhibit to be held in the Philippines will open at the Baguio Museum on Dec. 17. Titled "Crossing Themes, Bridging Cultures," it has two sections.

The first feature works done as a collaboration between British artist **Stanley Hunt**, an 81-year-old artist from London who has relocated in Manila, and **Julie Sarmiento Roces**, an avid craftsperson who is the only Filipino to have been featured in an international magazine on parchment art.

The second section showcases over a hundred individually designed parchment cards from all over the world, sent to spread friendship and to propagate the craft. The exhibit runs for only one week.

The Southeast Asian Foundation for children and television is organizing the exhibit, and will turn over a token donation of three DVD sets of "Happy Tales" to three public elementary schools in Baguio City. Each set contains 14 animated stories full of positive valves. The "Happy Tales" DVD production is a joint undertaking of SEAFCTV, Soka Gakkai Philippines, the Department of Education and GMA Network.

## Movies on TV

ON HBO, Dec. 11 at 8 p.m., "The Big Preview: King Kong." 2 a.m., "Helter Skelter." Dec. 12 at 10:30 p.m., "As Good As It Gets." Dec. 13 at 2 p.m., "Biloxi Blues." Dec. 14 at 10:30 p.m., "Angels in America, Chapter 1: Bad News." 11:40 p.m., "Chapter 2: In Vitro."

On Cinemax, Dec. 11 at 5:15 p.m., "An Officer and A Gentleman." Dec. 12 at 4 p.m., "The Naked Jungle." 2:30 a.m., "Little Women." Dec. 13 at 9:30 a.m., "For Love or Money." 2 a.m., "The Man Who Knew Too Much." Dec. 14 at 3:45 p.m., "That Touch of Mink." 7:15 p.m. "It Could Happen to You."

## Rico's Christmas Album

RICO J. Puno is launching his Christmas album by way of special shows every Wednesday night at Koric's at Kingswood Towers on Pasong Tamo, on Dec. 14, 21 and 28. All of the artists featured in the album will sing with Rico, with the acclaimed **Toti Fuentes** at the piano.

ROBERT Redford and Morgan Freeman in "An Unfinished Life"

# *Big stars, big heart*

**CHEER FACTOR**

HER NAME MEANS "DAWN," but whenever Aurora Cruz Romero celebrates her birthday, the stars come out.

Big stars.

It's not just because her son Vittorio is a famous director of commercials featuring show biz celebrities. "Lola" Aurora herself is a known patron of the arts and has been a benefactor to numerous talented men and women in local entertainment.

She would never brag about her scholars and other beneficiaries. But a quick look at any of her gatherings that marked a milestone is bound to give a clue as to how big her heart is, and how warmly it welcomes artists.

The last such gathering brought together Gary V, Celeste Legaspi, Kuh Ledesma, Basil Valdez, Martin Nievera, Dulce, The CompanY, Janno Gibbs, Rico J. Puno, Imelda Papin, Sylvia La Torre, Mitch Valdez, Pops Fernandez, Pilita Corrales, Willie Nep, Rannie Raymundo, Dessa, Richard Merk, Giselle Sanchez, Allan K, Tessie Tomas and Freddi Aguilar (see photos). Needless to say, the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental was packed.

Today she marks another milestone, at 75. As far as she knows, it will be a quiet celebration. But has anyone ever stopped the stars from turning out on a happy night?

AURORA Cruz Romero with Sylvia La Torre

KUH Ledesma

TESSIE Tomas

ROMERO with Pops Fernandez and Martin Nievera

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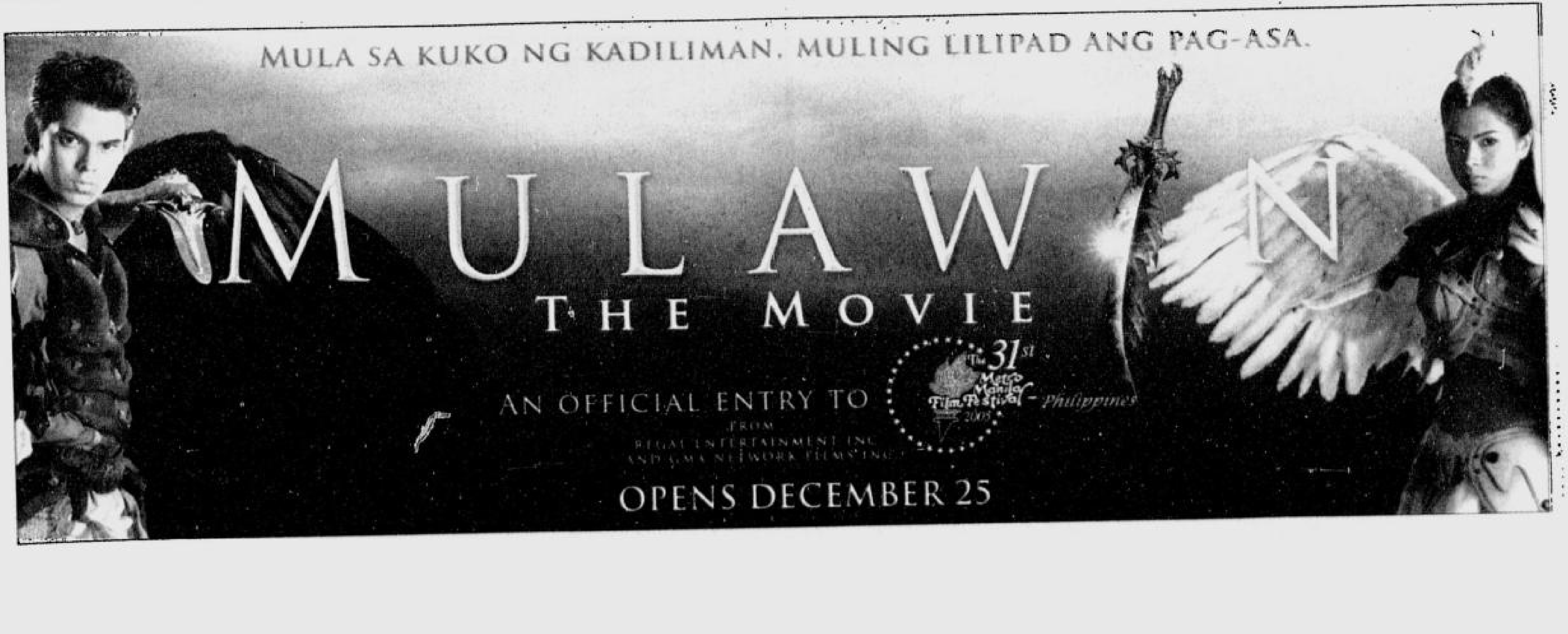

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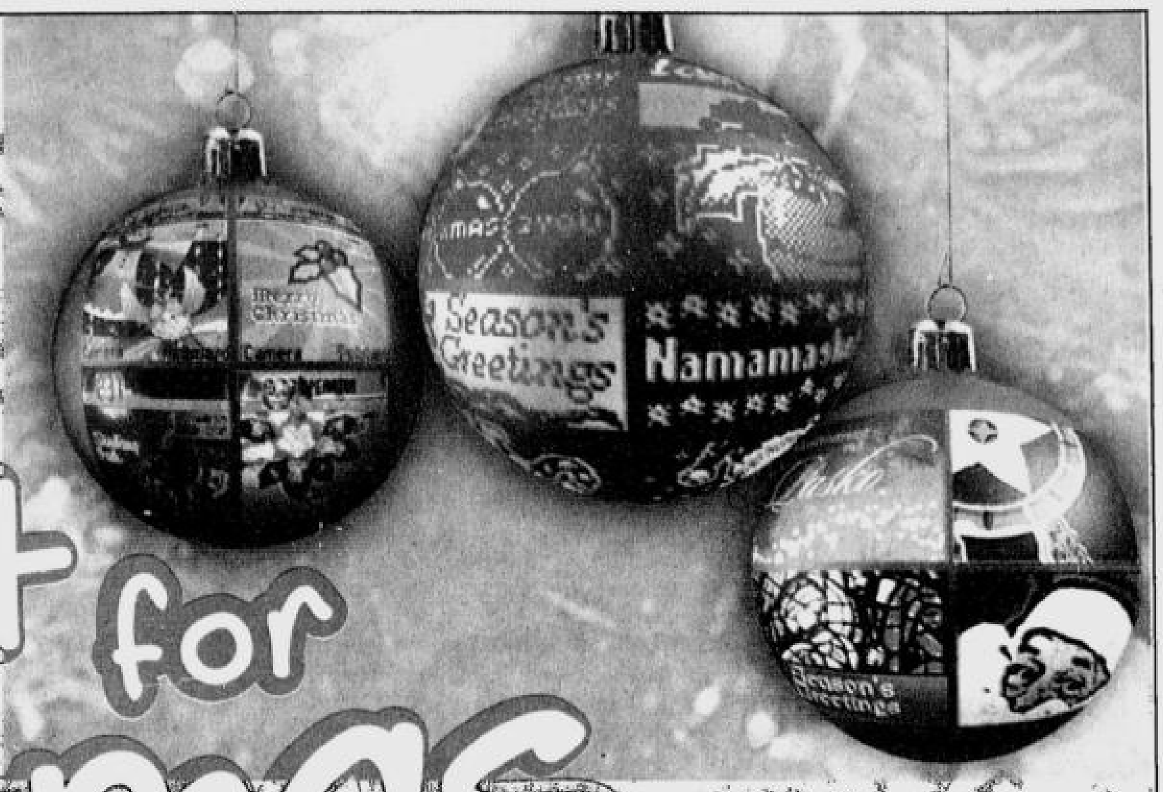
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| South Border | The Little Drummer Boy 2 | DRUMRBOY3 |
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| Various - Instrumental | Ding Dong Merrily On High | DINGDONG |
| Various - Instrumental | Away In A Manger | MANGER |
| Various - Instrumental | O Christmas Tree | XMASTREE |
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| Huy Regalo Ko Ha? | REGALOKO |
| Rudolp? Sit! | RUDOLP |
| Santa Claus Nadulas | SANTADULAS |
| Santa Claus Slang | SANTASLANG |
| Silent Not | SILENTNOT |
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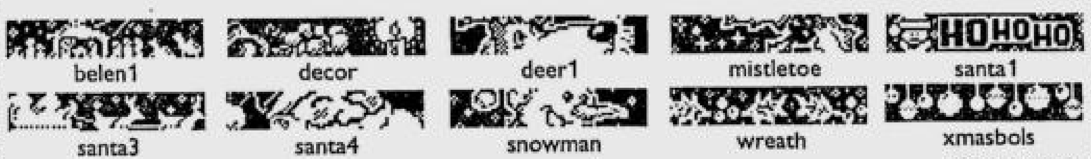
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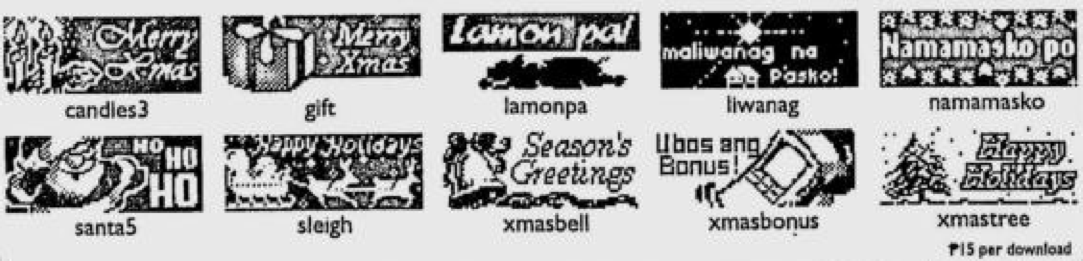
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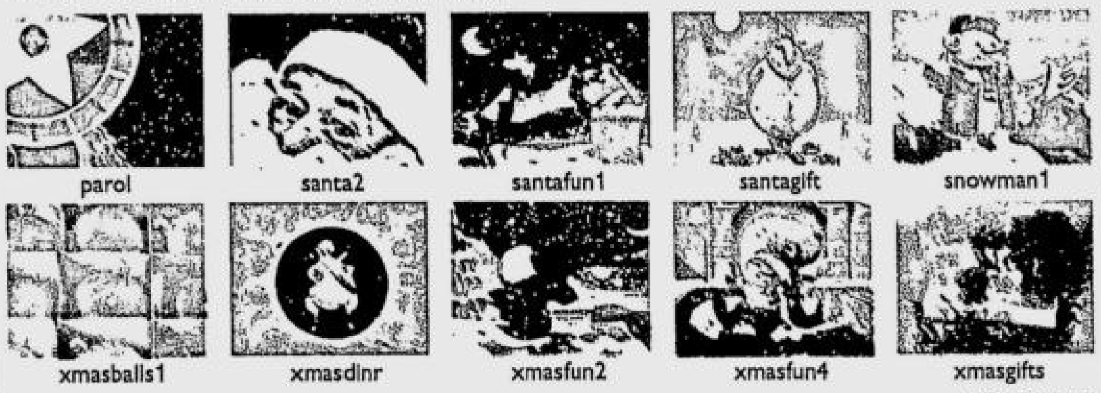
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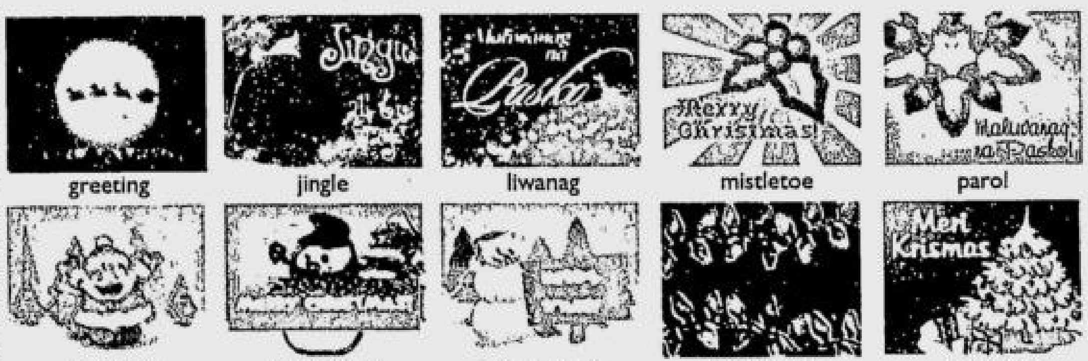
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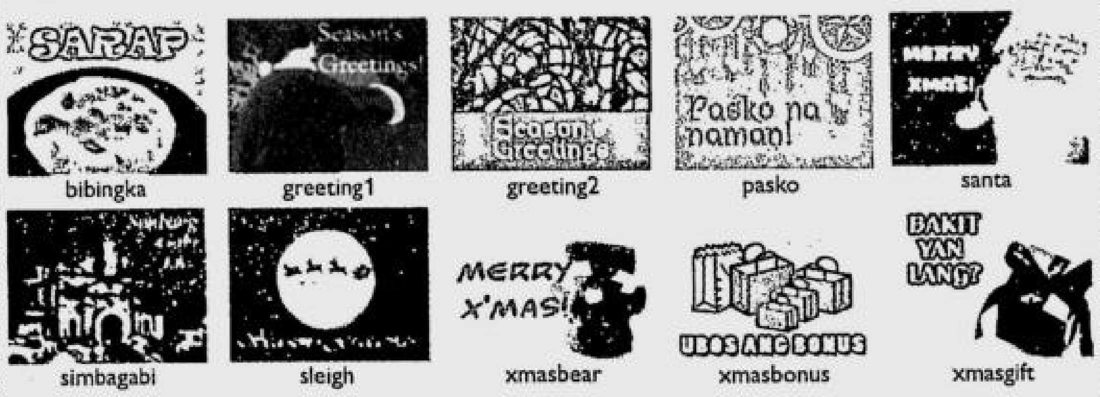
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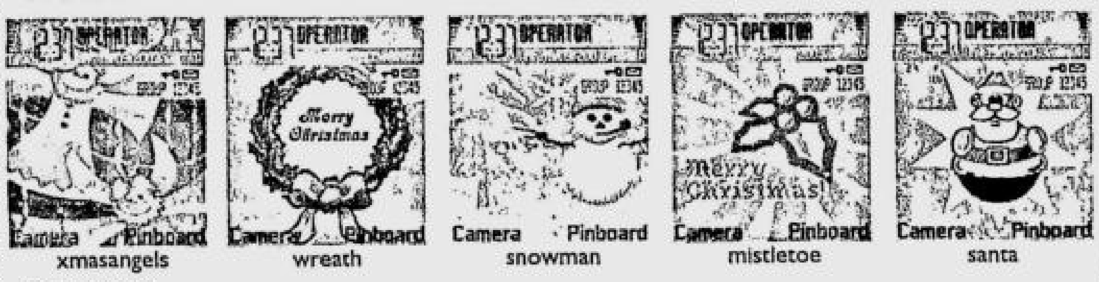
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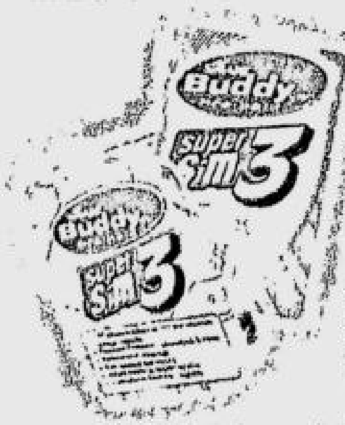
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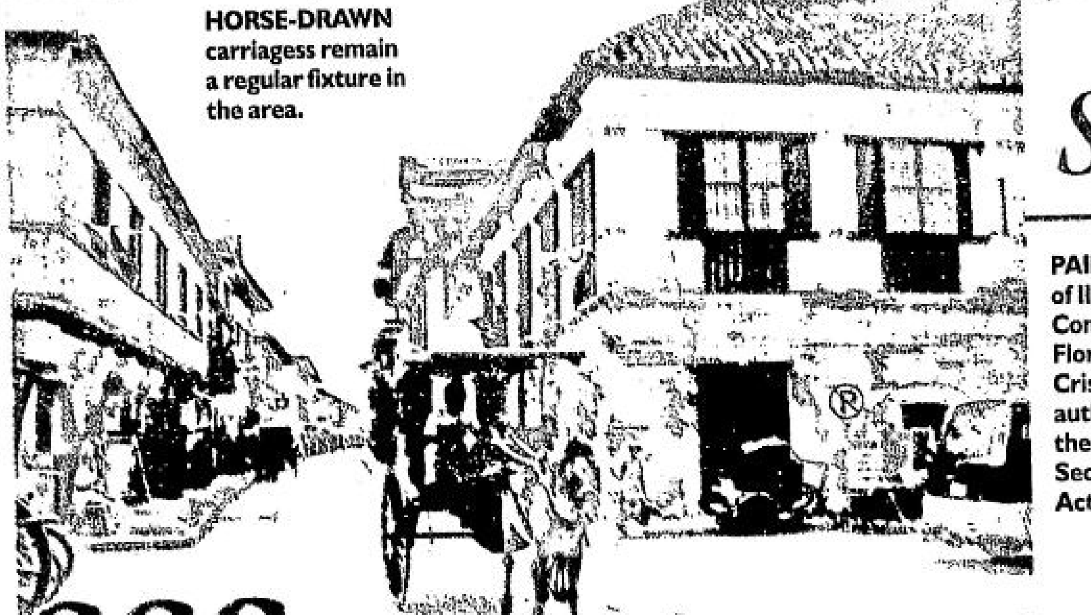
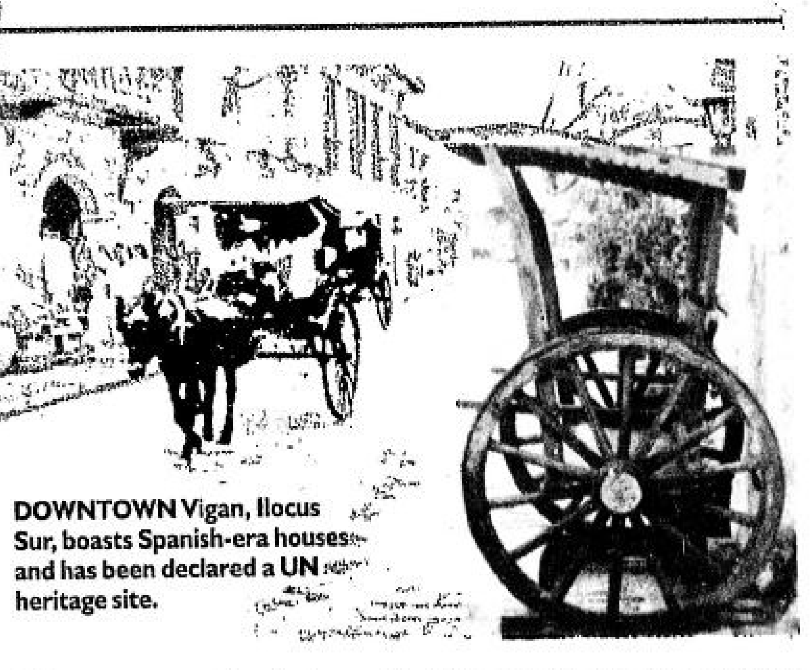


**HORSE-DRAWN** carriagess remain a regular fixture in the area.

**PAINTING** of Ilocos Sur Congressman Floro Crisologo, author of the Social Security Act of 1954.



**DOWNTOWN** Vigan, Ilocos Sur, boasts Spanish-era houses and has been declared a UN heritage site.

# SSS traces its roots to RP's 'wild, wild west'

**By Joel P. Palacios**
*AVP, Social Security System*

VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR—THE SOCIAL Security System (SSS) has traced its roots deep in the "wild, wild west" of the Ilocos Region in the northern Philippines, where it was drawn up and fostered by a wealthy political kingpin who fought employer groups and insurance companies to pass the social security law nearly 50 years ago.

When Floro Crisologo, who represented Ilocos Sur in the House of Representatives, introduced a bill proposing the creation of a social security agency to help poor workers, he was on a collision course with powerful employers and business groups, who thumbed down the measure.

"His bill met strong opposition from employers and such business interests as insurance companies. He was not deterred," said Carmeling Crisologo, 82, wife of the former congressman and matriarch of a powerful political family in Ilocos Sur.

The SSS law was enacted in 1957, three years after Crisologo introduced the measure. To ensure its passage, Crisologo agreed to accept amendments from labor and business groups.

According to SSS old-time members, employers considered social security contributions as additional operational cost, while insurance companies deemed it a strong competition to their business.

SSS marked its 48th anniversary on Sept. 1 this year. From seed capital of P500,000, it has become the biggest pension fund in the country in terms of membership with over 25 million members worldwide and assets totaling more than P189 billion.

Carmeling Crisologo, who is a former governor of Ilocos Sur, talked to reporters in the family-owned hotel, The Cordillera Inn, which has served as her home in the provincial capital of Vigan for many years. In addition to the hotel, she also manages a bank and a resort.

Vigan is a historical city that has retained its Spanish cultural heritage. The city center is a museum of cobblestone streets lined with old Spanish houses with elaborately designed *capiz* shell windows, wide *narra* wood floors and panels and Spanish period tile roofs.

**FORMER** Ilocos Sur Gov. Carmeling Crisologo

The city, which has been declared a United Nations Heritage site, is a virtual flashback to the Spanish colonial times. It was the seat of power of the tobacco barons in the 1960s and site of historical battles that highlighted the Filipino's gallant stand against Spanish, American and Japanese invaders.

Crisologo, a small, spry lady with shoulder-length black hair, described her husband as "a ladies' man, who was well-loved by his constituents due to his affability and modesty."

Congressman Crisologo was shot in the back of the head by a lone gunman while he was on his knees to receive communion during a Mass in the Ilocos cathedral in 1970. It was a daring daylight murder that marked a sudden shift in political power from the Crisologos to his nephews, the Singsons.

Crisologo said her husband thought about establishing a social security agency after undergoing a gall bladder operation at the John Hopkins University in the United States in 1952 and he could not hire a special nurse for his post-operation care for lack of social security coverage.

"My husband saw the benefits of a social security law for private sector workers, especially the poor. He believed it was only fair for Filipino workers to enjoy social security benefits," she said, waving a grizzled hand. She was not wearing jewelry.

Crisologo said SSS' growth has been phenomenal and it should now expand the scope of its coverage and provide social security protection to the most marginalized sectors of society.

She said her husband's crusade for social justice through the establishment of the SSS was probably the most important victory he had ever achieved in all of his fights, whether in politics or in a town brawl.

One of the Crisologo sons, Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo, once a gun-toting and tough-talking political heir-apparent who turned to the Bible and preaching of the words of Jesus Christ when he was sent to prison for burning to the ground the houses in two villages of their political rivals, is now a member of the House of Representatives, representing the 1st district of Quezon City.

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# Ifugao's skills in working with wood thrive

**By Desiree Caluza**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*
**With photos by EV Espiritu**

BANAUE, IFUGAO—THE IFUGAOS BELIEVE that a god descended from the skies to teach them their woodcarving skills. They passed on these skills to the younger generations.

Reuben Campol, 63, is among the woodcarvers in this tourist town who have enjoyed the fruits of nature's bounty and the skill in working with wood.

Campol started carving as a boy in the 1950s, a decade after the woodcarvers organized themselves to establish carving as a local industry.

He says in his earlier days, every boy in Banaue was either training himself or perfecting the craft because he wanted to sell his products.

"During our days you would see a lot of boys who practiced carving. These were the boys who did not go to school and instead focused their attention on carving," Campol says.

Although woodcarving has been an old practice in Ifugao, it was only in the 1940s when the industry blossomed after Alipio Mondiguing started to organize the carvers.

Mondiguing gathered the carvers after learning of the demand for carvings in the United States.

Campol says Mondiguing, a carver himself, trained residents to refine their work to suit the standards of the American market.

Campol says aside from the *bul'ul* or *hugo* (called as such in Hapao village in Hungduan town), a replica of the wooden rice granary guardian, the early carvers produced images of carabaos, nude figures of people, and life-size images of American Indians.

The figures and designs have evolved through decades depending on the preferences of the market, said Campol.

He says newer designs took the form of utilitarian pieces that incorporated traditional Ifugao designs.

Products at Mary Ann's Handicrafts, a shop run by Campol's family, incorporated the bul'ul and animal figures (monkey, horse, pig) in kitchen utensils, chairs and benches, canes and food and sundry containers.

These products double as ornaments because of their intricate designs.

Campol says tourists, antique collectors and exporters remain the major markets of Ifugao carvers.

He says his family exports the products to the United States.

Campol's daughter, Mary Ann, once got an export order for P6 million. She asked other carvers to supply the product so they could also benefit from the business.

Mumbaki or the native priests and other elders often retell the history of carving in Ifugao during rituals.

Gilbert Gano Alberto, a woodcarver from Hapao, said only Banaue and Hapao have produced skilled carvers. He says carvers in their villages are farmers who turn to carving after every planting season called *tunod*.

**REUBEN** Campol, 63, has been carving art from wood since the 1950s. He now exports variations of his carvings. EV ESPIRITU

**SAMPLES of Campol's genius, which are on display in Banaue town, Ifugao.** EV ESPIRITU

# 'Grand Dame of Dagupan' finds a new home

**By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DAGUPAN CITY—IN THREE YEARS, Dagupeña will be 80 years old. If it were a woman, she will be in her twilight years.

But Dagupeña is a restaurant and is still at its prime—serving the same recipes for 77 years to Dagupeños and visitors who have longed for the best Filipino food, especially the famous Dagupan bangus, in the city.

Dagupeña was a small eatery established in 1928 by Ignacia Bernal to augment the growing needs of her family.

It was through the restaurant that Bernal or "Bai (grandmother) Ignacia," unschooled and widowed at a young age, realized her dream of educating eight children. She received the national Mother of the Year Award in 1974.

Emma Castro, Dagupeña owner and Bernal's daughter, said her mother was a very meticulous cook who wanted only the freshest ingredients for her *sinigang na bangus*, *daing na bangus*, *inasin a pait* (salted bangus innards), *egado* (Ilocano version of menudo), *pinakbet* (a vegetable dish) and other Filipino dishes.

Castro said her mother attracted the city's most prominent residents to Dagupeña because of her sincerity and commitment in the restaurant business.

An old photograph of the restaurant showed Dagupeña's beginning as the "Carinderia de Dagupeña, Salon de Refrescos."

The old brick Quesada Building on AB Fernandez Avenue here, the restaurant's base since it was established, was gutted by fire at the outset of World War II. It was later replaced with a structure made of wood and *nipa*.

In 1948, a concrete building was built and the restaurant continued to rent it until this year.

Dagupeña, already an icon in Dagupan's restaurant scene, turns a new leaf this year as it finds a new home in the neighboring Calasiao town.

A new chapter in Dagupeña's history started on Nov. 27 when it opened its doors to customers in Barangay San Miguel in Calasiao.

Castro says this is the first time that Dagupeña has a home of its own.

"We have been renting the Quesada Building, which has been rebuilt thrice since Dagupeña went into business 77 years ago. But now we have our own building built on a lot that is a gift from my sister," she says.

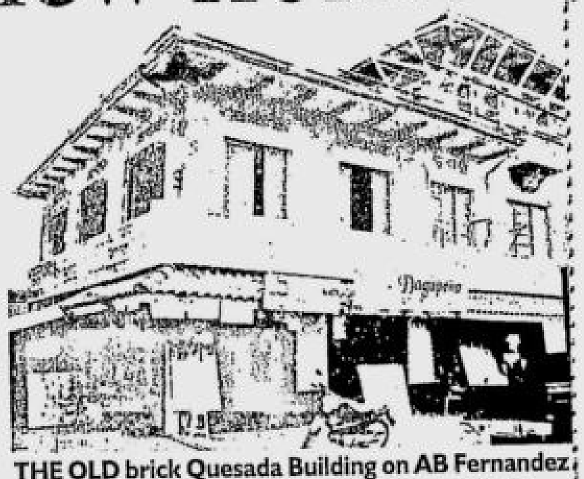
Today, Dagupeña still serves the best dishes that Bai Ignacia served in 1928. Plus, there are more dishes that pay tribute to the varied cultures that have enriched Dagupan's heritage.

Castro is confident that its quality dishes and excellent service will follow Dagupeña wherever it is.

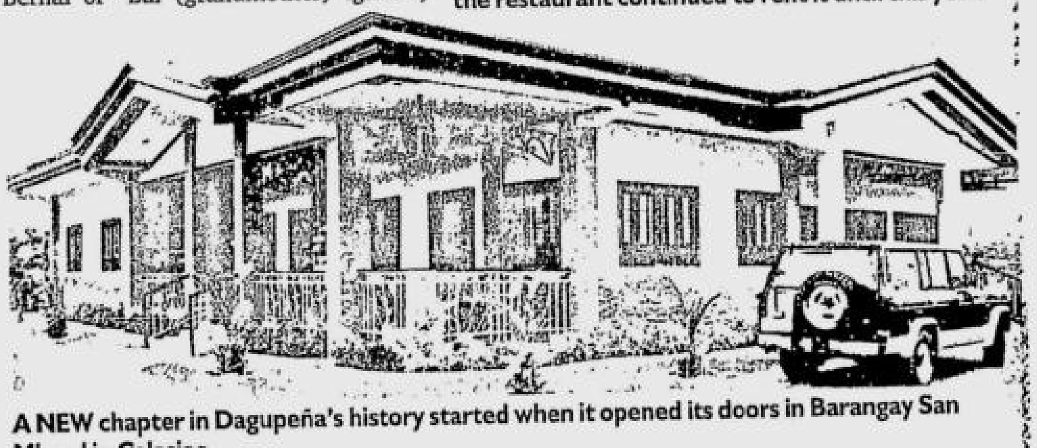
"The bulk of our customers are from other towns and provinces, anyway. When they learned that we were relocating, they were very supportive," she says.

The new restaurant has a function room that can accommodate 30 to 150 people and parking spaces.

But Castro says her four children, who will inherit the family's business, plan to someday bring the restaurant back to Dagupan, where it carved a name as the "Grand Dame of Dagupan."



**THE OLD brick Quesada Building on AB Fernandez Avenue was gutted by fire at the outset of World War II. In 1948, a concrete building was built and the restaurant continued to rent it until this year.**



**A NEW chapter in Dagupeña's history started when it opened its doors in Barangay San Miguel in Calasiao.**

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L.A.: 241 sqm. F.A.: 108 sqm.
Lot 26-Dens/6652-Part. Bo. Dalisay
Minimum Bid : 258,000.00
LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 624 sqm. F.A.: 240 sqm.
Psu-245071, Dalisay
Minimum Bid : 368,000.00
JIMENEZ
LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 18,790 sqm. F.A.: 191 sqm.
6023 Brgy. Road, Taganas, Now Part Of Naga
Minimum Bid : 1,084,000.00
LOT 4 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 483 sqm. F.A.: 236 sqm.
835 Dunas St., Naga
Minimum Bid : 293,000.00
LOPEZ JAENA
LOT 5 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 401 sqm. F.A.: 98 sqm.
Lot 2295-A, Centro
Minimum Bid : 184,000.00
LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 388 sqm. F.A.: 90 sqm.
Lot 2201-A, Eastern Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 283,000.00
LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 175 sqm. F.A.: 105 sqm.
Lot 2183-A, Eastern Pob.
Minimum Bid : 139,000.00
LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 516 sqm. F.A.: 196 sqm.
Lot 2972-B, Silugon
Minimum Bid : 317,000.00
OROQUIETA
LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 105 sqm. F.A.: 75 sqm.
Lot 7258, Canubay
Minimum Bid : 327,000.00
LOT 10 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,954 sqm.
Lot 3053 & 5684, San Vicente Alto
Minimum Bid : 435,000.00
LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 825 sqm.
5564-A, Talairon
Minimum Bid : 159,000.00
LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 825 sqm.
5564-B, Talairon
Minimum Bid : 264,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 824 sqm.
5564-C & 5564-E, Talairon
Minimum Bid : 264,000.00
LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 5,199 sqm.
6112 Villaflor
Minimum Bid : 683,000.00
OZAMIS
LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 579-L & 579-K Circumferential Road, Aguada
Minimum Bid : 210,000.00
LOT 16 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 262 sqm.
Lot 7840-A Alley Bo. Annex
Minimum Bid : 1,379,000.00
LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 348 sqm. F.A.: 68 sqm.
Lot 8339-D-5 Bañadero,
Minimum Bid : 272,000.00
LOT 18 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 380 sqm. F.A.: 126 sqm.
Lot 3213-A-7 National Highway, Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 832,000.00
LOT 19 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,641 sqm.
Lot 3221-B-2-D Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 403,000.00
LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 200 sqm. F.A.: 225 sqm.
Lot 3217-D-2-B Alley, MI School Campus Site, Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 662,000.00
LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,500 sqm.
Lot 9163 Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 282,000.00
LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 128 sqm.
Lot 7 Alley Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 48,000.00
LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 453 sqm.
Lot 3194-B-3-D, Sufod, Bo., Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 191,000.00
LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 464 sqm. F.A.: 540 sqm.
464 Existing Road: Baybay, Triunfo
Minimum Bid : 2,410,000.00
LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 400 sqm.
Lot 579-H Bitoon
Minimum Bid : 120,000.00
LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 237 sqm. F.A.: 108 sqm.
Lot 6102-D Undeveloped Alley, Carangan
Minimum Bid : 332,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 140 sqm.
Lot 30E Existing Alley. Bo. Gango
Minimum Bid : 680,000.00
LOT 28 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 150 sqm. F.A.: 33 sqm.
Lot 1081-A-1 Gango
Minimum Bid : 108,000.00
LOT 29 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 95 sqm.
Lot 3-E, Bo. Gango
Minimum Bid : 621,000.00
LOT 30 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 210 sqm.
Lot 479-A Quince De November St., Katagalogan
Minimum Bid : 861,000.00
LOT 31 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 220 sqm.
Lot 7934-F Bo. Lam-An
Minimum Bid : 150,000.00
LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 220 sqm.
Lot 7934-C Bo. Lam-An
Minimum Bid : 150,000.00
LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 303 sqm.
Lot 6 Don D. Rosano St., Las Aguedas
Minimum Bid : 1,288,000.00
LOT 34 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 4,015 sqm.
Lot 9137-B,C, & D Maningcol
Minimum Bid : 621,000.00
LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 405 sqm.
Lot 630-H Alley, Vayson Village; Maningcol
Minimum Bid : 104,000.00
LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 7,272 sqm. F.A.: 148 sqm.
Lot 637-A Baybay, Bo. Maningcol
Minimum Bid : 1,735,000.00
LOT 37 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 825 sqm. F.A.: 126 sqm.
Lot 7795-A & 7795-B R. Magsaysay Blvd. Bo. New Annex
Minimum Bid : 843,000.00
LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 83 sqm.
7155-C Bo. San Roque
Minimum Bid : 94,000.00
LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 78 sqm. F.A.: 116 sqm.
9873 Baybay, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid : 124,000.00
LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 306 sqm. F.A.: 105 sqm.
Lot 7171-B Road, Tinago
Minimum Bid : 338,000.00

PANAON
LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 223 sqm. F.A.: 62 sqm.
Lot 961-A, Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 362,000.00
LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,358 sqm. F.A.: 400 sqm.
901-A Punta
Minimum Bid : 389,000.00
PLARIDEL
LOT 43 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 142 sqm. F.A.: 99 sqm.
Lot 45-C, Panalsalan
Minimum Bid : 190,000.00
LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 560 sqm. F.A.: 107 sqm.
Lot 4233-A, Leo. Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid : 341,000.00
SINACABAN
LOT 45 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 788 sqm. F.A.: 144 sqm.
1021 & 1022, Centro Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 446,000.00
TANGUB
LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 239 sqm.
Lot 765-F Provincial Road, Dimaloc
Minimum Bid : 27,000.00
LOT 47 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 448 sqm.
Lot 786-A & B Provincial Road, Labuyo
Minimum Bid : 51,000.00
LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 123 sqm. F.A.: 123 sqm.
318-B-3 Interior Lot, Dimaloc
Minimum Bid : 190,000.00
TUDELA
LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 12,150 sqm. F.A.: 52 sqm.
5048-A, Bo. Barra Road, Bo. Barra
Minimum Bid : 732,000.00
LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 50,904 sqm.
5048-C, Bo. Barra
Minimum Bid : 192,000.00
LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 848 sqm. F.A.: 133 sqm.
538 Municipal Road, Centro Hulpa
Minimum Bid : 431,000.00
LOT 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 217 sqm. F.A.: 168 sqm.
352-Part, Nat'L. Highway, Centro Napu
Minimum Bid : 274,000.00
LOT 53 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 800 sqm. F.A.: 122 sqm.
Lot 744, Upper Centro
Minimum Bid : 211,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 358 sqm. F.A.: 102 sqm.
4096-A, Dolores, Now Yahong
Minimum Bid : 59,000.00

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

DAPITAN
LOT 55 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,618 sqm.
Lot 501-B Lawaan, Dawo
Minimum Bid : 850,000.00
DIPOLOG
LOT 56 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 454 sqm.
1312-A-8 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 116,000.00
LOT 57 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 454 sqm.
1312-A-9 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 116,000.00
LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 266 sqm.
1312-A-10 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 68,000.00
LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 265 sqm.
1312-A-11 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 68,000.00
LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 530 sqm.
1312-A-12 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 136,000.00
LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 265 sqm.
1312-A-13 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 68,000.00
LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,318 sqm. F.A.: 90 sqm.
Lot 1867-C-2-G-4-B & 1867-B-2-B Brgy Road Gulayon
Minimum Bid : 712,000.00
LOT 63 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 406 sqm.
Lot 999-A-1 Easement Row Miputak
Minimum Bid : 206,000.00

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,220 sqm.
Lot 999-B, Miputak
Minimum Bid : 549,000.00
LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 620 sqm.
Lot 4-H, Sicayab
Minimum Bid : 248,000.00
LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,211.12 sqm.
Lot 2613-I-2 Sicayab
Minimum Bid : 291,000.00
LOT 67 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 409 sqm. F.A.: 326 sqm.
Lot 721-H-6 Subd. Road, Turno
Minimum Bid : 1,568,000.00
LOT 68 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 384 sqm. F.A.: 125 sqm.
Lot 6 & Lot 3, Block 4, Turno
Minimum Bid : 585,000.00
LOT 69 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 862 sqm.
Lot 9 Turno
Minimum Bid : 414,000.00
LABASON
LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 73 sqm. F.A.: 58 sqm.
Lot 2341-A Municipal Road Imelda District
Minimum Bid : 54,000.00
LILOY
LOT 71 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 4,157 sqm.
Lot E Bo. Baybay
Minimum Bid : 1,164,000.00
MANUKAN
LOT 72 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 680 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
Lot 2704-A-5-B-3 National Highway, Diquis
Minimum Bid : 159,000.00
MUTIA
LOT 73 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 703 sqm. F.A.: 144 sqm.
Lot 3375 Municipal Road, Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 173,000.00
LOT 74 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 405 sqm. F.A.: 76 sqm.
Lot 492-B-4 Brgy Road
Minimum Bid : 105,000.00
LOT 75 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 549 sqm. F.A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 3479 Nat'L. Road, Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 180,000.00
LOT 76 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 608 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
Lot 3326 Corner Burgos & Magsaysay St.
Minimum Bid : 144,000.00

LOT 77 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 711 sqm.
Lot 492-B-1 Brgy Road
Minimum Bid : 68,000.00
LOT 78 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 594 sqm.
Lot 3323, Barangay Sta. Tomas, Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 78,000.00
LOT 79 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 594 sqm.
Lot 3312, Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 153,000.00
ROXAS
LOT 80 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 563 sqm.
Lot 1-E Municipal Road, Langatian
Minimum Bid : 178,000.00
LOT 81 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 565 sqm.
Lot 2030-B Identical To Lot 4747, Pls 40, Langatian
Minimum Bid : 323,000.00
SINDANGAN
LOT 82 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 803 sqm. F.A.: 58 sqm.
Lot 3127 Existing Road, Disud
Minimum Bid : 132,000.00
LOT 83 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 299-A-8-A-3 Bo. Disud
Minimum Bid : 168,000.00
LOT 84 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 970 sqm.
Lot 558-F Bo. Disud
Minimum Bid : 275,000.00
LOT 85 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 400 sqm.
Lot 16 Bo. Goloo
Minimum Bid : 112,000.00
LOT 86 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,816 sqm. F.A.: 360 sqm.
Lot 1, 2, 3, Rada St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 2,092,000.00
LOT 87 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 285 sqm. F.A.: 95 sqm.
Lot 4 General Luna St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 240,000.00
BOCON
LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 612 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-A, Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 156,000.00
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LOT 89 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 800 sqm.
Lot 1650 Nat'L. Highway, Sto. Nino
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# What Internet access can do to the youth

THE INTERNET LITERACY CAMPaign has brought awareness to a lot of people and has solicited help from its stakeholders to contribute efforts to address poverty and social development on a national scale.

"A classic example of this is the Florencio Urot National High School in Mabolo, Cebu City," narrates Racquel Cagurangan, Chief Administrative Officer of Innove Communications, carrier of Globelines and Globequest "This school exhibited their concerns in sustaining Internet literacy by putting up Internet cafes, night schools, desktop publishing, and E-libraries to generate revenues and support the maintenance of the computer labs."

Innove Communications is trying to provide to public high schools all over the country with Internet access.

"In January, Innnove committed to connect 388 public high schools. To date, Innove has surpassed the 388 schools it targeted—a classic example of "under-promising over-delivering," Cagurangan says.

During the first quarter of 2005, Innove's efforts to be involved in the crusade of educating the youth in various computer literacy programs led it to join hands with other government agencies and the private sector in its Gearing-Up Internet Literacy and Access for Students or GILAS project.

Innnove Communications targeted public high schools where they provided computers and all connections needed for the access to the Internet. "The company has successfully deployed 100 percent Internet connectivity to public high schools in the following cities: La Carlota, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue, Tagbilaran, and Ormoc," Cagurangan adds. "Our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs on youth and education not only paved the way for the young children to enjoy computer education in public high schools, but also attracted its stakeholders, which includes parents, teachers and even the students to make these initiatives sustainable," she continues.

Early this year, Innove and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a memo of understanding to improve the quality of education in Mindanao through education improvement programs.

KING JAMES
AUCTION CALENDAR
ON-SITE AUCTION
SCRAP METAL AUCTION
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : DEC. 12-13, 2005, 9:00AM - 5:00PM
SITE LOCATION :KING JAMES AUCTION PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS
777 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
AUCTION DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2005 (WED), 10:30AM
SCRAP METALS CONSISTING OF I-BEAMS, PIPES, ALUMINUM STEEL PLATES, GENERATORS, COMPRESSOR, TRANSFORMER, TRAILER, TAPPING MACHINES, RICE THRESHER, IRONING PRESS, CRANK SHAFT, ROCKER ARM, HEAVY DUTY HACK SAW, ELEVATOR MOTOR W/ PARTS, WELDING MACHINE, OVERHEAD CRANE, FLANGES, GATE VALVES INDUCTION MOTOR, WATER PUMP, GONDOLA PARTS, SUBMERSIBLE PUMP, ELECTRIC METER, FORKLIFT TIRES, BATTERIES, FIRE HOSE, HYDRAULIC HOSE, HONDA VAN, KIA CERES D13 SINGLE TIRE RAV-TYPE & MANY MORE
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT P 20,000.00
ON-SITE AUCTION
YEAR-END AUCTION
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : DEC. 16-17, 2005, 9:00AM - 5:00PM
SITE LOCATION :333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
AUCTION DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2005 (SUN), 10:30AM
CONSISTING OF HOME FURNITURE, RESTAURANT TABLES & CHAIRS, OFFICE TABLES, OFFICE CHAIRS, GUEST CHAIRS, POWERTOOLS, KITCHENWARES, GLASSWARES AND MANY MORE
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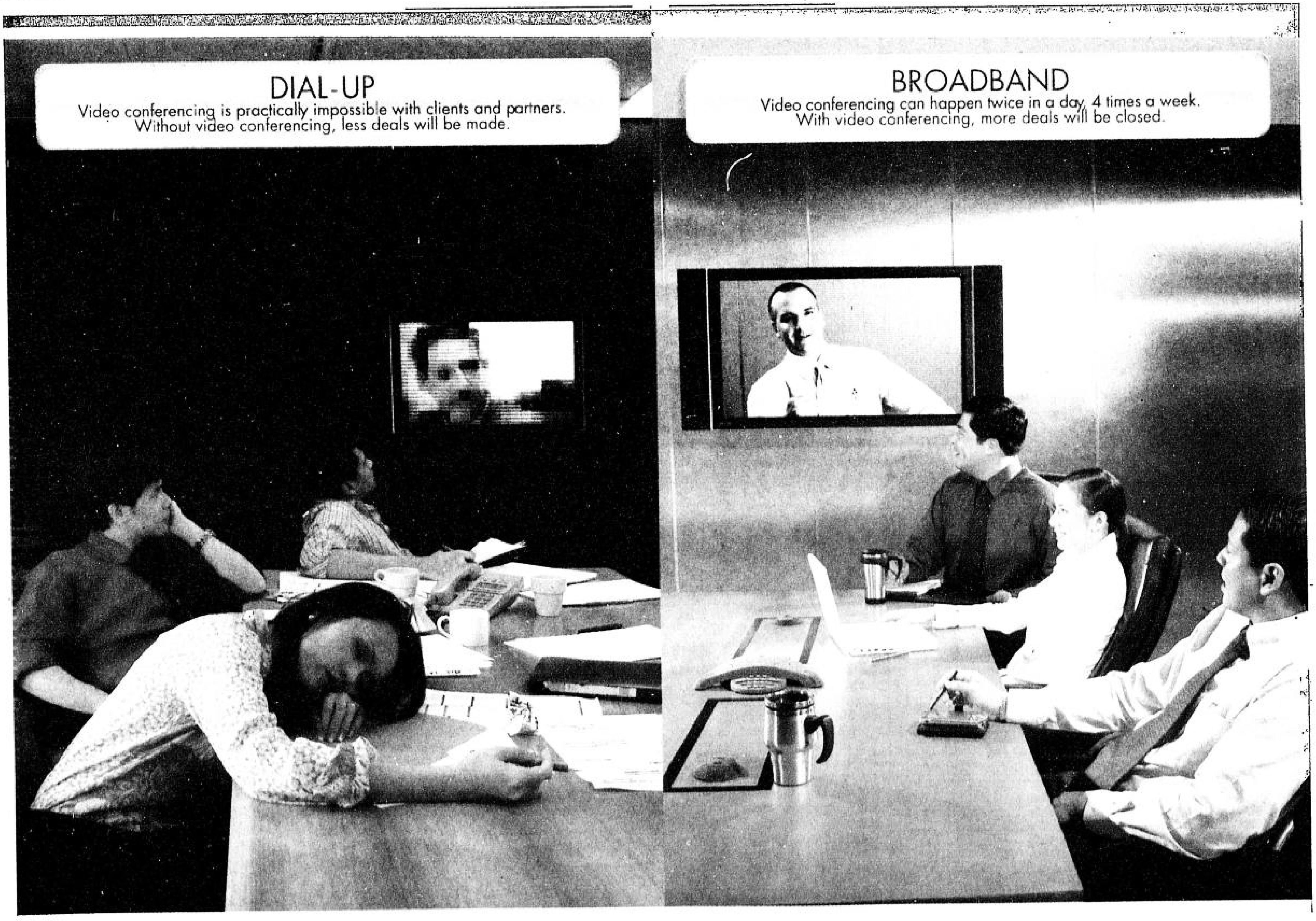
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With video conferencing, more deals will be closed.

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| Tycoon | P5,000 | 2 Mbps | 768 Kbps | 128 Kbps | Waived |
| Taipan | P8,000 | 2 Mbps | 1 Mbps | 256 Kbps | Waived |

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Globelines Broadband is a product of Innove Communications, the landline, data and internet arm of Globe Telecom. Subscribers of the Extreme packages will be upgraded to the new packages by Dec. 25, 2005. For more details, call Customer Care Hotline.
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# VP de Castro cites Five9 as a boost for job creation

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Legazpi City

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The BICOL UNIVERSITY through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project : Provision of Security Services for Bicol University
Location : Bicol University, Legazpi City
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 6,019,200.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last TWO (2) YEARS with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | DEC. 1, 2005 |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | DEC. 7, 2005 |
| 3. Opening of Bids | DEC. 19, 2005 |
| Bid Evaluation | DEC. 19, 2005 |
| 4. Post-qualification | DEC. 21, 2005 |
| 5. Notice of Award | DEC. 28, 2005 |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of SIX THOUSAND PESOS (P 6,000.00) to the BICOL UNIVERSITY Cashier.

The BICOL UNIVERSITY assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The BICOL UNIVERSITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) DR. OFELIA S. VEGA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

**INTEGRATED TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM**

The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) is pleased to invite applicants to the following programs under its Integrated Traineeship Program for Year 2006:

- **Cadetship Program** – six (6) months on-the-job training intended for graduates of *Electrical and Electronics & Communication Engineering Courses.*
- **Apprenticeship Program** – six (6) months on-the-job training intended for graduates of Technical/Vocational Courses (i.e. Electrical Engineering Technology, Industrial Technology, Electronics Technician, Computer Technician, Aircraft Mechanic, etc.)

The above programs aim to provide new graduates of engineering and technical/vocational courses the opportunity to acquire actual experience in the field of electrical power transmission.

Qualification Requirements:

- Not more than twenty five (25) years old;
- No failing grades in major subjects;
  *(Please bring original Transcript of Records)*
- **Apprenticeship Program** – must pass the TransCo Mental Ability, Aptitude and Personality (MAAP) Test
- **Cadetship Program** – must pass the Transco MAAP Test and the Technical Examination formulated by the designated Board of Examiners.

Only applicants who meet the first two (2) requirements may personally apply on **December 5-16, 2005 and January 5-13, 2006 (1:30 PM to 4:30 PM *only*)** at the following **TransCo Offices**:

**Residents of Metro Manila:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **Human Resource Training Division**<br>Human Resources Department<br>G/F, TransCo Main Building, Power Center<br>Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,<br>Diliman, Quezon City | (02) 981-2139 to 40 |

**Residents of South Luzon:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **HR/Administration Division – Regional Office**<br>San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna | (049) 981-4576 |
| **District 1 – Batangas / Cavite**<br>Mahabang Parang, Batangas City | (043) 300-3591<br>(043) 300-3592 |
| **District 2 – Laguna / Quezon**<br>Barangay Real, Calamba City | (049) 545-1915<br>(049) 834-0158 |
| **District 3 – Bicol Area**<br>Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay | (052) 824-1102/07<br>(052) 824-7974 |

**Residents of North Luzon:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **HR/Administration Division – Regional Office**<br>Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point<br>San Fernando City, La Union | (072) 888-0837<br>(072) 888-0839 |
| **District 1 – Ilocos Area**<br>Bauang Substation, Barangay Pottot,<br>Bauang, La Union | (072) 242-1178<br>(072) 242-1174 |
| **District 2 – Mt. Province Area**<br>Beckel Substation, La Trinidad, Benguet | (074) 444-7425<br>(074) 444-7423 |
| **District 3 – North Central Plain Area**<br>San Manuel Substation, San Manuel,<br>Pangasinan | (075) 565-3260<br>(075) 656-3267/<br>3268 |
| **District 4 – Cagayan Valley Area**<br>Santiago Substation, Barangay Rizal,<br>Santiago City, Isabela | (078) 682-8406<br>(078) 682-8408 |
| **District 5 – West Central Plain Area**<br>Hermosa Substation, Barangay Balsik,<br>Hermosa, Bataan | (045) 971-6698<br>(045) 971-6780 |
| **District 6 – South Central Plain Area**<br>Mexico Substation, Barangay San Jose Matulid,<br>Mexico, Pampanga | (045) 966-0436<br>(045) 966-0440 |
| **District 7 – Northern Tagalog Area**<br>San Jose Substation, San Jose Del Monte,<br>Bulacan | (044) 691-3330 |

**Residents of Visayas:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **HR/Administration Division – Regional Office**<br>Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City | (032) 343-9815/<br>9816 |
| **District 1 – Panay Area**<br>Zone III, Bo. Obrero, Ilo-ilo City | (033) 336-1489<br>(033) 337-8023 |
| **District 3 – Leyte-Samar Area**<br>Barangay Milagro, Ormoc City | (053) 561-0140 |
| **District 4 – Negros Area**<br>Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City | (034) 435-4418<br>(034) 708-6988 |

**Residents of Mindanao:**

| Office & Address | Contact #s |
|---|---|
| **HR/Administration Division – Regional Office**<br>Ma. Cristina, Iligan City | (063) 223-6612/<br>6613 |
| **District 1 – Northwestern Mindanao Area**<br>Rizal Avenue, San Pedro, Pagadian City | (062) 214-1856<br>(062) 214-1671 |
| **District 2 – Lanao Area**<br>Overton, Fuentes, Iligan City | (063) 221-6136<br>(063) 221-6133<br>(063) 221-6134 |
| **District 3 – Northcentral Mindanao Area**<br>Agoho Drive, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City | (088) 227-23716<br>(088) 227-23744<br>(088-858-6047 |
| **District 4 – Northeastern Mindanao Area**<br>J.C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City | (085) 815-2178<br>(085) 342-8293<br>(085) 225-2147 |
| **District 5 – Southeastern Mindanao Area**<br>3rd Floor, D&G Bldg., corner Yellowline<br>& Sampaguita Mintal, Davao City | (082) 293-0208<br>(082) 293-0599<br>(082) 293-0205 |
| **District 6 – Southwestern Mindanao Area**<br>Calumpang, General Santos City | (083) 553-2819<br>(083) 552-3269 |

For applicants to the **Cadetship Program**, only those who passed the MAAP examination are qualified to take the **technical examination** scheduled on **January 28, 2006 for Luzon** and **February 3, 2006 for Visayas and Mindanao.**

**The on-the-job training starts on March 7, 2006**

(PDI–Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO has cited the revolutionary Five9 technology as a big boost to the government's job generation program in the countryside. At the opening ceremonies of a Jobs Fair held by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECoP) at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), de Castro, who also serves as the country's housing czar, has expressed elation over the entry of the Pleasanton, California-based Five9 Inc into the Philippines.

Five9 is an international call center solutions provider that has chosen the Philippines as the site of its regional headquarters in Southeast Asia, because of the country's huge potential to become the hub of the US$100-billion global customer care industry, with the excellent language, communication and cultural skills of the Filipino people. The company has recently introduced in the country its award-winning Five9 Virtual Contact Center (VCC), a revolutionary technology that allows small organizations to start a call center with a minimal capital of as low as P350,000.

During the event, which ECoP organized together with the Presidential Management Staff and the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), the vice president made a live call to Five9 main based in California and was briefed on the tremendous benefits of VCC.

Five9 vice president for international sales, Lisa Navarette explained to the vice president how VCC can facilitate the rise of cottage contact centers across the archipelago and help the Philippines in its quest to become the Asian hub of global customer care operations. She said that with the Five9 VCC technology, call centers can start with one or two seats, even in the countryside. Investors, she added, can set up their call center operations in communities that have not been able to participate in the rapidly growing industry.

De Castro said the Five9 technology would be a big help to the government's job generation program, particularly in the countryside. He noted that it is the goal of the Arroyo government to spread job opportunities from Metro Manila to the provinces. "This could help us generate livelihood opportunities and drive the growth of small and medium enterprises, specially in the countryside," he added.

Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao, head of the PMS, also expressed deep interest in the new technology, saying it could help bridge the gap between job opportunities and unemployment in the countryside.

ECoP chair Miguel Varela said the participation of Five9 in the Jobs Fair will contribute to the employment generation program of the employers' group. "This is a new technology that can help us communicate to the whole world. This can help us put up a small version of a call center minus the large capital required," he said.

VCC is a fully hosted voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) contact center system that enables companies of any size to build a comprehensive, feature-rich contact center anywhere without large capital requirement.

The technology allows even the smallest organization to set up a call center within two days and add new seats in less than one day in any location where there is a broadband connection to the Internet just for a modest monthly seat license and one time set up fee. The technology eliminates the need for expensive infrastructure and special software and hardware.

VCC supports inbound, outbound and blended campaigns with a robust set of features such as interactive voice response, automatic call distribution, recording of calls, predictive dialer, voice mail, customer relationship management, call monitoring and reporting.

Five9 targets small-to medium-sized contact centers and branches of large organizations. Among the current users of Five9 products are call center outsourcers, fundraisers, and companies engaged in financial services (mortgage brokers, debt counselors, banks, etc.), telemarketing, health care, home improvement, travel, and high tech industries.

The Insular Life Assurance Company
SALARY
SUR CE P

### INTER-ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK PARTNERS WITH INSULAR LIFE

Inter-Asia Development Bank has partnered with Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd, the first and largest Filipino life insurance company, in offering its employees the Salary Savings Insurance Program. The SSIP is a convenient payment facility for employees of private entities who want to buy ordinary life insurance for themselves and their immediate family members by paying premiums on a monthly mode through salary deductions. Shown are (standing, from left) Reynaldo Ealdama, OIC-SSI Unit, Insular Life; Imelda Handang AVP for operations, Inter-Asia Development Bank; Rosal Luzvicente de Leon, agent of Emeraldo, Quezon Avenue DSO; (seated, from left) Arsenio Cuadrante Jr., president, Inter-Asia Development Bank, and Lauro Concepcion, RM-Metro East, Insular Life.

Forging partnerships together

### BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK, THE SHANG GRAND TOWER INK MOA

BPI Family Savings Bank inks a partnership deal with The Shang Grand Tower Corp. Under the bank's Build your Dream Housing Loan, clients are given the opportunity to own an exquisite condo unit in one of the most sought-after places in the heart of Makati City. Alberto Pascual, senior vice president of BPI Family Savings Bank and Alfonso Salcedo Jr., president, BPI Family Savings Bank, sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Tomas Zita, president, The Shang Grand Tower, and Vicente Formoso, vice president for finance, The Shang Grand Tower.

### MASCOTS VISIT SPEEDTECH R/C CAR PROMO BOOTH

Energizer Running Man together with Susie and Geno visited Speed-tech R/C Car Festival Promotional Booth at various SM Toyworld and Toy Kingdom branches last September. Lots of kids and kids-at-heart joined the mascots in the showcase of Speedtech remote control cars. Speed-Tech R/C Grand Tourismo is organized by Smarty Toys Corp with joint effort of Energizer Philippines as presentor and Sustagen as major sponsor.

# Sony Ericsson showcases winning Walkman phone range

WILL THE WONDERS OF THE WALKMAN phone range ever cease? Sony Ericsson has announced the latest addition to its winning Walkman phone range, the W900i, the first 3G/UMTS Walkman handset, even while the groundbreaking W800i continues to earn raves. Introduced with an array of innovative accessories like the Home Audio System MDS-70 and FM Music Transmitter MMR-60, the W900i brings the Walkman phone family to a total of three models.

The Sony Ericsson W800i, winner of the Best Music Phone award in the 2005 Mobile Choice UK Awards, started the ball rolling. Aside from its obvious strengths as a device capable of playing up to 30 hours of music, the W800i boasts of a 2-megapixel camera complete with auto focus, photo light, active lens cover and a digital still camera interface. The music player and phone can also be used independently of each other. The user can switch the phone off for a plane journey, for example, while still enjoying the music player.

Sony Ericsson also recently announced the W550i for Asia Pacific. Designed for young, expressive fun seekers, the W550i can store from 60 to 120 standard music tracks. It has a 1.3-megapixel camera and with its swivel design, also allows for exciting horizontal, two-handed mobile gaming. Horizontal-mode games can also be played in portrait mode or an L-Shaped mode using the keyboard. The W550i also supports multi-player peer-2-peer gaming over Bluetooth.

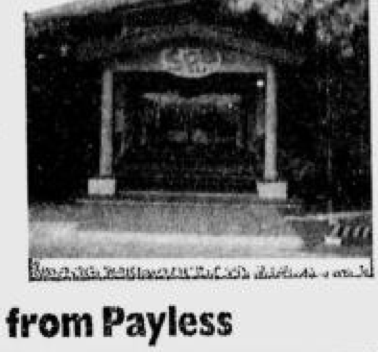
The Sony Ericsson W900i Walkman phone also sports a swivel design and has a 2-megapixel, auto focus camera with LED flash. The camera can be operated with both hands in a horizontal position for maximum stability. The camera shoots video at up to 30fps (frames per second), double the speed of most conventional imaging phones and the playback quality threshold for television.

The W900i's large internal 470MB user free memory provides space for between 120 and 240 songs. With a Memory Stick PRO Duo, currently available in retail outlets at up to 2GB, storage capacity is easily increased to 1,000 music tracks. The handset also comes supplied with Disc2Phone PC software that allows the user to easily transfer music to the phone from audio CDs and a PC music collection.

The Sony Ericsson W800i is currently available in authorized Sony Ericsson dealers nationwide. The W550i and W900i are set to be released in the Philippines soon.

## ProductFILES

### The ritz Tropical Spa and Vietnam Harbor Grill now open



THE RITZ TROPICAL SPA AND Vietnam Harbor Grill recently opened at Blk. 76, Bicentennial Park, CBD, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The Ritz Tropical Spa offers Swedish, Shiatsu and Aroma Therapeutic Massage, Foot Reflex, Body Treatment, Salon, with Shower, Jacuzzi, Steam, Sauna and highly trained therapist. Also visit The Ritz Spa Malate main branch located at 1614 M. Adriatico St., Malate Manila. For inquiries call (047) 252-6088 and 523-3333.

### Two hot new treats from Payless

PAYLESS
MAMI
PAYLESS
MAMI

MADE FROM CHOICEST INGREDIENTS TO create the savory blend of spices and premium chicken and beef flavors, the new Payless Instant Mami Spicy Chicken and Spicy Beef make for exciting and tongue-tingling treats any time of the day. Now there are five delectable flavors to choose from every time hunger hits - Chicken, Beef, Bulalo, the new Spicy Chicken and Spicy Beef, all fortified with 11 essential vitamins to keep you healthy. And best of all, Payless Instant Mami comes in a pocket-friendly price so it's sure to fit even the tightest budget. Now available in supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

# Pfizer launches TV campaign to promote value of life, research

EVERYDAY, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE depend on life-saving medicines to help cure pain and illnesses that afflict them. Life is too precious and this is why it is important to invest on well-researched medicines with proven effectiveness and safety to help patients live longer, healthier and happier lives.

With the great challenge of communicating and promoting the value of life and well-researched medicines to help preserve health and well-being, Pfizer launched a new corporate campaign entitled "Sulit na Gamot".

The "Sulit na Gamot" campaign is aimed at stressing the value of research and development at Pfizer which enables doctors to give patients safe, effective and well-studied medicines that produce not only immediate results in treating the disease but also long-term outcomes. Through this campaign, Pfizer wants to make Filipinos more aware of the value of life and the importance of getting only the medicines which gives the highest value and best cure possible for every patient.

As part of the campaign, Pfizer came up with a 30-second TV commercial, which features an elderly couple celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. The husband, who is suffering from heart disease, thought that this would not have been possible. "Pero salamat sa alaga ni Doktor at sa gamot na binuhusan ng research", this wonderful couple continues to live a happy and healthy life together.

The TV commercial shows Pfizer's relentless commitment in providing medicines that are researched and how it affects the lives of every Filipino who uses them. Through these medicines developed by Pfizer to combat diseases, millions of Filipinos are now enjoying good health and longer lives.

The "Sulit na Gamot" TV commercial airs this month during primetime in top-rating shows in ABS-CBN, ANC and GMA Network Inc. In addition to the objective of further increasing the public's awareness of the campaign, Pfizer Consumer Health TV commercials will also unveil the official slogan and logo for the campaign: "Dapat Sulit. Pfizer".

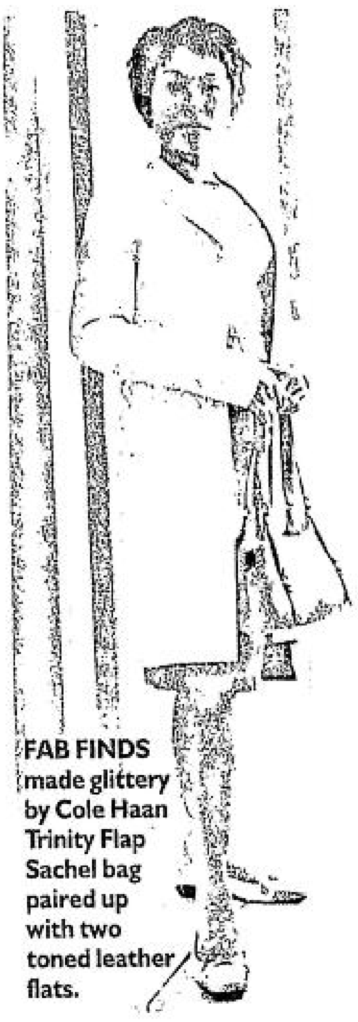
**SET** aside the jacket and wear a glittery bolero and a shimmery Cole Haan skimmer ballet shoes. Modeled by Ces Drilon.

# Turn your office clothes into party wear

THE OFFICE MEMO IS TACKED prominently on bulletin boards. It's office Christmas party season once again, and the workplace is abuzz with party plans. What to wear is always a problem. With guidance and a little imagination, putting together the right office-to-party outfit shouldn't be difficult. You can go from corporate crony to holiday hit in no time.

The cardinal rule is to remember that this is the office party. While the party is a festive occasion, it is still classified as a business function. Make sure what you wear reflects well on you professionally and won't diminish your credibility. While you should dress up from your everyday office garb, keep your reputation for good taste in tact.

And remember there is one cardinal rule—always wear the right shoes. Cole Haan's latest line offers styles that are good to go—from a hectic day in the office or on the field to a sassy evening of office partying. From great pumps with flashy embellishment, to edgy, strappy pairs; from neutral hues to Holiday greens, bright oranges and blues.



**FAB FINDS** made glittery by Cole Haan Trinity Flap Sachel bag paired up with two toned leather flats.

Remember for corporate Christmas parties, it's not all about the flash. Aim for something you'll feel comfortable in, will get compliments for, and will look forward to seeing when the photos get developed. Here are some suggestions from Cole Haan, at Glorietta 4 and Power Plant Rockwell:

1) Embellish your everyday office wear. Work with your basic pieces, especially if you have little time to prepare for the party. You can set aside the jacket you wore in the office and pair your pants with a silk camisole or a shiny top, or match a beaded cardigan set to your simple knee-length skirt. Finish the look with a smart Cole Haan t-strap pumps in snake skin or rich satin.

2) Differentiate between naughty and nice. Accentuate your best features, but avoid anything too tight or revealing. Anything lingerie-inspired is inappropriate. Too-short skirts and plunging necklines can also dispel your credibility—after all, it's your office party, not a nightclub. You don't want to be called "that girl" behind your back for the years to come. Cole Haan tapered ballerina shoes can give a pretty twist to the whole outfit.

**COLOR COORDINATED.** All day on the field, and off to a night of karaoke Christmas party. Tapered blue ballerina shoes with Nike Air Technology.

3) Think festive, not tacky. Get into the holiday spirit, but keep your wits about. Unless it's a costume party, no one will take you seriously again after you show up wearing a snowman-emblazoned sweatshirt, reindeer antlers, Christmas ball earrings, or a fur-lined Santa Baby suit.

**BLACK** with a twist. Green Air Bronte sling.

4) Accessorize. An interesting piece of jewelry can add dramatic flair to a simple outfit. Work with a pair of chandelier earrings, a glitzy necklace, or a brooch, but remember to limit yourself to one signature piece at a time or you might end up resembling a Christmas tree. A glittery scarf or a retro belt can also do the trick. Cole Haan has a wide range of shoes that can make for great accessories too!

5) Black is beautiful. Black easily transitions from work to party, and can do wonders for your figure too. You can start with a staple black piece, such as the Little Black Dress, then add on a bright-colored shawl, a beaded handbag, or some colorful rhinestone jewelry, and you're good to go. Add an interesting twist to your office party clothes with strappy heels in all other colors—except black!

6) Throw in some texture. Textured pieces are always fun, as long as you don't overkill. Suede pants, a faux mink stole, a velveteen shrug, a sparkly wool sweater, a leather jacket, or a sequined top will go a long way, as long as you don't wear all of them together.

7) Less is more. Keep the makeup simple and tasteful; slather it on and you could end up giving life to the nightmare before Christmas. Add some shimmer with glittery eye shadow or lipstick, but use them sparingly. Also, don't hose yourself down with perfume. A spritz or two will do the trick. You don't have to let everyone within a mile radius to know you're wearing perfume.

8) Finally, dress for comfort. Try out your outfit before the big event. Watch out for slipping straps and hiking hemlines; you don't want to spend the whole night tugging at your clothes. You're bound to be on your feet a lot and you might even want to (or have to) dance a bit, so make sure your shoes won't kill you. Cole Haan is made of soft leather that can take you from work all day to dancing all night. It's also good to bring along a shawl or a jacket in case you get cold. Always remember: if you feel good, you'll look good.

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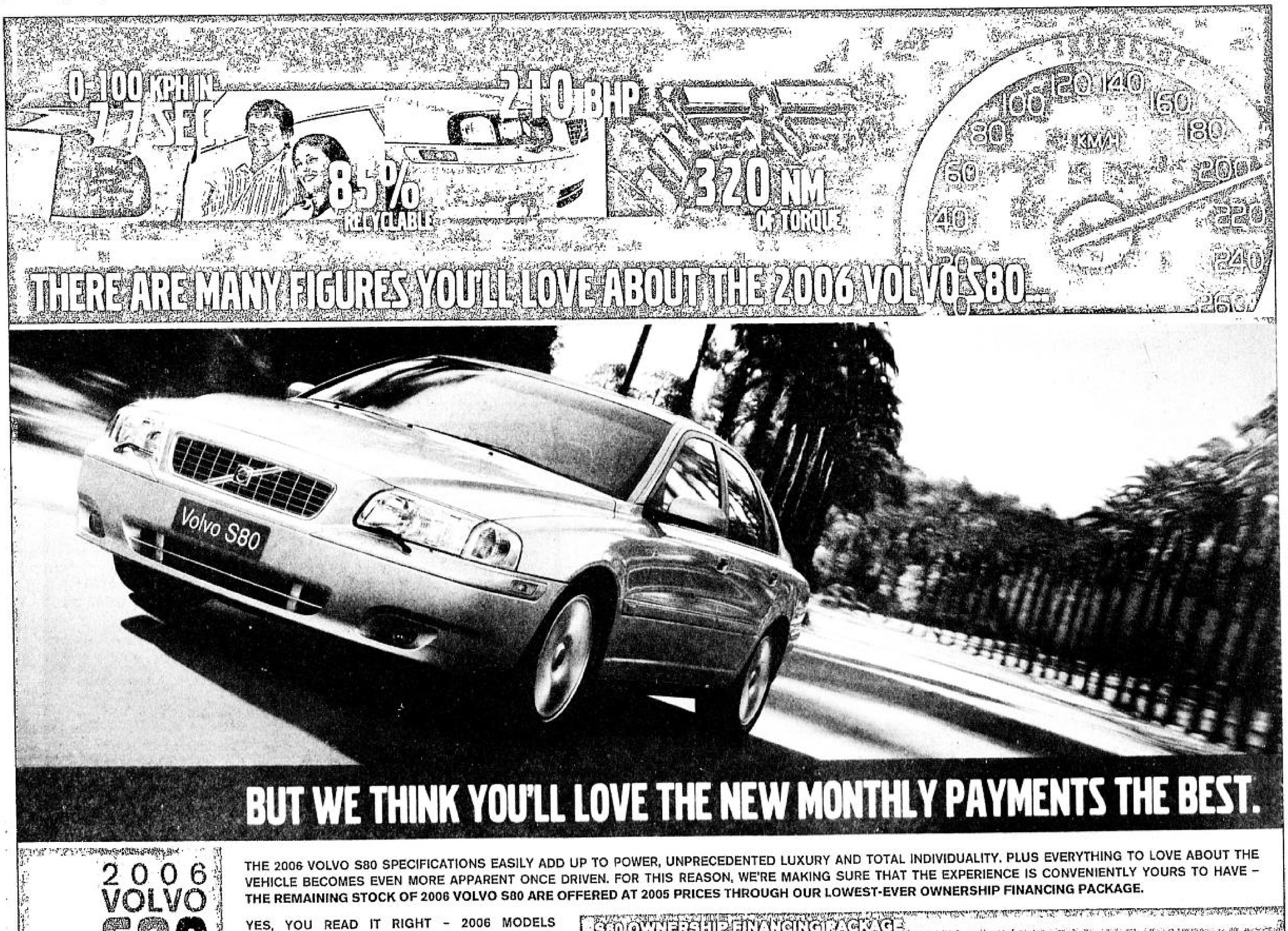

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UNIVERSITY OF ST. PAUL
Surigao City

**VENERANDA F. POSCHOR**
UNIVERSITY OF BAGUIO
Baguio City

### MESSAGES

Today marks another milestone for both the association and the new criminologists. As your national president, my task is to bring our profession to the next level- the level of global competency. This can be attained if we will put our acts together and contribute our share in this Herculean task. As new criminologists, it behooves you to hone your skills to become globally competent. Participating in nation-building is a social responsibility that every criminologist worthy of the said calling must do. It is our social contract. Every criminologist worth his salt should also actively attend and participate in all activities of our association. In so doing, you can proudly say that you have done your share for the greater interest of this nation and to our profession as well. With your unwavering commitment and dedication to our profession and our association, there is no doubt we will succeed in all our lofty endeavors.

Mabuhay!

MANUEL V. JAUDIAN, PhD
National President

**Republic of the Philippines**
**Professional Regulation Commission**
**Manila**

On behalf of the Board of Criminology of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), I convey my warmest felicitations to the newly elected officers of the Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines (PCAP), a national organization of criminologists that is accredited by the PRC.

It is recognized that peace and order is a *conditio sine qua non* to national development. As the organization of professional criminologists, PCAP must reflect on this fact and respond to the great challenge of building peaceful and orderly communities throughout the country and the world. PCAP must lead its members towards a concerted and collective action against criminality and peace and order problems.

Today, as you take your oath as PCAP officers, the Board of Criminology shares with you in your commitment to promote the welfare of fellow criminologists and to serve our Filipino people. Let us offer everything to Him and say *"Thank you Lord for You have made beautiful plans for PCAP."*

LOURDES W. ANICETO
Chairperson
Board of Criminology

---

**Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission**
2/F MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 4333443; +632 926-5233/34
Telefax Nos. +632 4333444

# INVITATION FOR BIDS

*Project* : *Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)*
*Loan No.* : *Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI*

**Description of Works:**

**Construction and Development of Public Markets for Sunny Brooke 1-2 and Country Meadow and Construction and Development of 2 Units of Two-Storey School Buildings for Sunny Brooke 3 relocation site located in Brgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite**

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for Community Facilities w/ site development (Contract No. EPA-RAP-CF21 and EPA-RAP-CF-22)
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

| Contract Package | Contract No. | Area (sq.m.) | Location | Contract Duration | Project Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Package 1:** Site Development and Construction of Public Markets (Sunny Brooke 1-2 and Country Meadow) | EPA-RAP-CF21 | Floor Area = 681<br>Land Area = 1348 | Sunny Brooke 1- 2 and Country Meadow Subd., Bgy. San Francisco, General Trias | 180 c.d | Construction and development of Community Facilities which includes the following items of work: construction of temporary facilities; earthworks; civil works; steel works; architectural works,. tinsmitry; sanitary/plumbing works, site development and electrical works |
| **Package 2:** Site Development and Construction of 2 Units of Two-Storey School Buildings (Sunny Brooke 3) | EPA-RAP-CF22 | Floor Area = 647<br>Land Area = 6528 | Sunny Brooke 3 Subd., Bgy. San Francisco, General Trias | 210 c.d | Construction and development of Community Facilities which includes the following items of work: construction of temporary facilities; earthworks; civil works; steel works; architectural works,. tinsmitry; sanitary/plumbing works, site development and electrical works |

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

| Activity | Date | Time | Venue | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 12,500.00/ package | Dec. 5-12 2005 | 8:00AM to 5:00 PM | PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105 | Eligibility checklist is free of charge |
| Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents. | Dec. 5-12, 2005 | 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM | | For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist |
| Site Inspection | Dec. 15, 2005 | 10:00 AM | Sunny Brooke 1-3 and Country Meadow Subds., Bgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite | |
| Pre-Bid Conference | Dec. 16, 2005 | 10:00 AM | PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105 | |
| Deadline for Submission | Jan. 9, 2006 | 10:00 AM | PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105 | Late bids shall not be accepted |
| Opening of Bids | Jan. 9, 2006 | 10:30 AM | | Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders. |

4. LGU-Gen. Trias shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check / Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the "*Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers*" pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **Bingle H. B. Gutierrez**
Executive Director, PRRC

(Sgd.) **Luis A. Ferrer IV**
Municipal Mayor, Gen. Trias

*Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission*
*2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105*
*Tel. Nos. 433-3444, 433-3447 and 926-5234*
*Email Address: prrc@tri-isys.com*
*Fax No. 926-5234*

(PDI – Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

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# NOTICE AND WARNING

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that our client, **HEN-CON SALES** is the registered owner of **H-KAWASAKI** (Welding Machine and Air Compressor) by virtue of copyright registration no. **M 2005-527.** It has also a pending application for the tradename of **H-KAWASAKI** with the Intellectual Property Office, with application no. **04-2005-010256.** As owner, our client is entitled to the exclusive use, importation, and distribution of said tradename.

**H KAWASAKI**

**HEN-CON SALES** has authorized only three distributors of the subject product under H-KAWASAKI trademark, namely:

(1) Han's Infinite Tools
(2) Harrows Industrial Sales
(3) Melbourne Industrial Sales

Let this be a **WARNING** that our client **HEN-CON SALES**, through its legal counsel, will institute CRIMINAL and CIVIL ACTIONS against any individual or entity found MANUFACTURING, IMPORTING, DISTRIBUTING and / or SELLING Welding Machine and Air Compressor, identical or substantially similar to its mark name and logo bearing the trademark **H-KAWASAKI**, without a written authority or consent.

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
***KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON***
DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepEd-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for printing, packaging, delivery, storing, and retrieval of NAT 2006 (Rebid) described below:

| Package | Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) per Package | Pre-Bid Conference | Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids | Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable) | End user |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Package 1:<br>NAT Grade 6 & Yr. IV:<br>Printing of Test Booklets, Delivery of Test Booklets and Answer Sheets, and Retrieval of Test Booklets | P 19,300,000.00 | Dec. 14, 2005 10:00 AM<br>Venue: LCC Conference Room, 4th Floor, Mabini Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City | Dec. 28, 2005 10:00 AM<br>Venue: Bulwagan Ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City | P 4,000.00 | NETRC |
| Package 2:<br>NAT Years I and II:<br>Printing of Test Booklets, Delivery of Test Booklets and Answer Sheets, and Retrieval of Test Booklets | P 26,402,000.00 | | | | |
| **Total** | **P 45,702,000.00** | | | | |

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting **December 7, 2005** upon payment of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at Telephone No. 636-6543 or Fax No. 636-6542.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA**
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, BAC

(PDI - Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

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# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **Mr. Raul F. Marcelo** is no longer connected with Subic Bay Golf & Country Club.

Any transaction, communication, etc. done with Mr. Raul F. Marcelo on behalf of Subic Bay Golf & Country Club will not be honored.

(PDI – December 11, 2005)

---

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# INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project | Procurement of Security Services |
| Location | various pumping stations, reservoirs, main office, collection units and other facilities of the BWD. |
| Approved Budget for the Contract | P 46.90 per hour/guard |
| Contract Duration | one (1) year renewable upon mutual agreement of the parties |

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass-fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | December 12 to 16, 2005 |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | December 21, 2005 |
| 3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility | January 2 to 6, 2006 |

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to the BWD Cashier.

The Baguio Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MA. LUISA C. TENEDERO**
**BAC Chairman**

(PDI – Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

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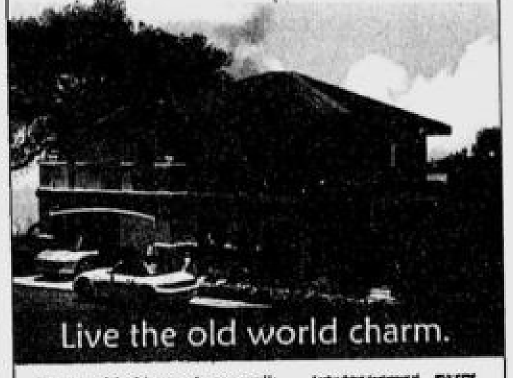

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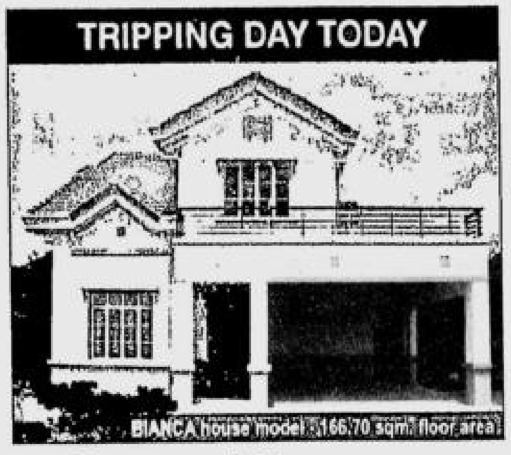

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VVERDE 3BR 2M 912-4323

**QUEZON CITY**

4BR w/ garage nr Ateneo UP Champion Supermart Sikatuna Vill QC 9215328 ; 09166496838

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 5yrs to Pay "0" Interest 9126976Rose

New Mla 4br 0917-5213838

PROJ.4 NR HI-TOP 3BR 3TB w/garage 435-4869

QC Condo 580T 0916-5412000

RENOWNED LANE
P3M Sanville Bnew 3BR2TB 4539180 /81 Rene

•Teacher Village•
P3.8M
2-CAR GARAGE; 4BR;4T&B W/ MAIDS ROOM & ROOF-DECK ALL CONCRETE BANK OR IN-HOUSE FINANCING
939-5325 / 0927-3767084 / 439-1995 / 439-6921

**SAN JUAN**

NEAR GREENHILLS
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids 1-2 grge P3.780Mup 8903461

### LOT

**MARIKINA**

354M' TOWN & COUNTRY MARCOS P3,7M' 915-8015 0917-8580878

**PARANAQUE**

1648m' COMM'L LOT
San Martin de Porres Near HONDA Neg. Atty. Aparocho 0917-2599040 •0918-6267435

**QUEZON CITY**

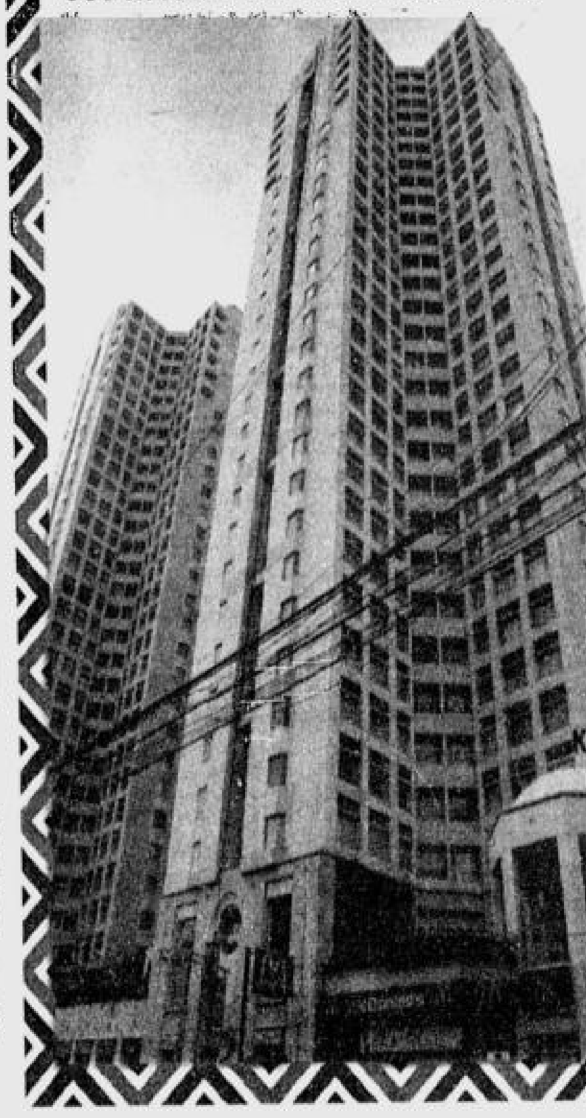
1Ha Sn Jose Occ Mindoro along Prov Hway 9316390

Kingswood MAKATI

Christmas Gift for your Loved Ones!

Kingswood Makati Condominium

Kingswood is less than 600 meters from the Makati CBD



HURRY, LIMITED OFFER ONLY!

Buy 2 Penthouse units and take 1 Regular unit and 2 Parking Slots free for only P14.5M!

Package 1 :
Penthouse Units:
P1D Tower B and P1E Tower B
Regular Unit: 23E Tower B
Parking Slots : B1-058 and B1-069

Package 2 :
Penthouse Units:
P1A Tower B and P1F Tower B
Regular Unit:14G Tower A
Parking Slots: LG-078 and LG-046

Kingswood Makati Condominium
Pasong Tamo cor.
Vito Cruz Ext., Makati City.

For Inquiries contact
Union Properties Inc. at
Tel. nos. 636-6377 to 78 • 638-3087
811-3537 • 811-3545 • 848-2830

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### LOT

**QUEZON CITY**

CUBAO 800m' gud 4 bus statn BF QC 250m' P8500/sqm 09194628295 • 9323892

Filinvestll 345m' 9125847

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m' P8,500/m' 0918-9235216★

LOT 300SQM ROOSEVELT PARKWAY Q.C. 7337767/69/73

**RIZAL**

562m' Loc Brgy Saperya Binagonan • 0917-8986809

TANAY RIZAL 8,860sqm 130/sqm 0921-2355935 24 Mango Trees

**OTHER PROVINCIAL**

Tgtay 320sqm 9175335898

**CAVITE**

TAGAYTAY LA PRAIRIE 8422213

W/ VIEW OF TAAL 2404775

**VARIED AREAS**

•Ferndale 204&568@15K
•Hillside 800&1200@25K
•Capitol GH 430-850@12K
•Xville 200-400-750@20K
•Cubao 14th Ave. 700@15K
•Kawilihan Pasig 300@20K
•Legaspi Pasig 600@10K
09175000585 / 9120943

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

LIAN,BATS. nr Matabungkay 3000-15000m' with has water elect Comml narra Mahgny nr hway along concrt Road nice breezy Call 0916-3638956

Sto.Nino LIPA 1.8hs 250m' Fruit /Veges/Ornamental Plants Stable /Cool •0917-8865134•

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### APARTMENT

**MAKATI**

3BR 13T CP09189363109

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### APARTMENT

**MAKATI**

•NICE/NEW FURN P17T MKTI 961-2125 / 0919-6716291 •

**MANILA**

2BR 1B P8T 0921-2232857 P8T

**MARIKINA**

2 sty. 100fa Apt. w/TB, EL,H'O Tank 3BR & Grge Oppo Saint Scholastica Mrkna Hts. call Rafol Macalinao 942-0554 / 0917-3736642

**PASAY**

Condo Type 1BR 521-1025

**QUEZON CITY**

2BR T.Sora P6T 09156257259

8T w/grge Fema Rd Proj8- 9211050

•P5.5th #22 Congressional & Visayas 9267433 09262352266

### WANTED TO LEASE

URGENT need restaurant site Recto/Quezon Blvd/Legarda Quiapo/Sampaloc, 100m' up, frontage 5m up, w/2/F 150m' 150m away sch 09164156765 restsite@yahoo.com

### HOUSE

**MANDALUYONG**

Sta. Lucia St. 3BR Grg 5347689

**CAVITE**

GPP FA300sqm LA348sqm 5BR 4CR Big Space •0919-4853180•

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MAKATI**

1BR CTL 9 8019537/9175335808

Mkt 2Br 1Tb P12.5 tel.prkg studio 9T no dues 897-0417

Stud-Legaspi Vil. 0917-8454534

**MANILA**

NR LASALLE 3BR 3TB 8992148

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE
1. OFFICE SPACES
Legaspi / Salcedo Vill. Makati
2. STORE SPACES / WAREHOUSES
Dasmariñas, Cavite
Alabang-Zapote Rd. Las Piñas
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
Bauan, Batangas
ALL RENTAL - NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel. No. 892-2681 to 98
ARIEL / DING / REXIE

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MANDALUYONG**

CITYLAND SHAW NICE BARE STUDIO OUTER 09173922385

WACK WACK HEIGHTS 150sqm 3BR/3TB, F/F w/ Golf View/ Parking, Newly Renovated 40K •Call/Text 0917-8195870•

**MARIKINA**

Bnew 2sty 2BR w/covrd grge Tierra Vista Subd 948-0309

**TAGUIG**

Bonifacio Ridge Condominium
Spanish Bay (B) Tower
Level 11, Unit 2
Flr. Area - 113sq.m.
3-BR w/ 3 T&B
Fully Furnished
Facing Golf Course
1 Parking Slot
Contact: Theresa
Tel: 892-1342/0921-4256488

### WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

1800m' New Meycauayan Tollgate Nlex 726-4046

•CABUYAO LAGUNA NEW WHSES 850-2700m' INSULATED ROOF 4RENT 09186267995

### ROOM & BOARD

El Grande Inn 8257524 BF Pque P200l Tel8275345

•FURNISH PASAY 8872065•

Mkt Male P1.8 - 5.2 890-6331

P150l Manila 7836781 Daily, Wkly 09228321888

Windsor Inn Maceda St nr 7-11 Dimasalang, Manila 7118579, 7836781(24hrs)

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

**MANILA**

1BR w/AC NR LaSalle 8992148

### BEDSPACE

**MAKATI**

Mktl nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974097

### BUSINESS RENTAL

Medilink-Clinic Sharing Tel. 3391175 • 09193512010

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

WAITING 4 LOAN APPROVAL? WE PROVIDE QUICK BRIDGING LOANS AT REASONABLE RATES AGENT/BROKER OK M-F GREEN 6974430, 6970638, 8506559 to 60

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

### HOUSE & LOT

Imus GPP FA300m' LA348m' 5BR 4CR Big Spc 09194853180

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**FORD**

RUSH '02 ESCAPE 4X4 1ST OWN 27KM 780T 0917-7963211

**HONDA**

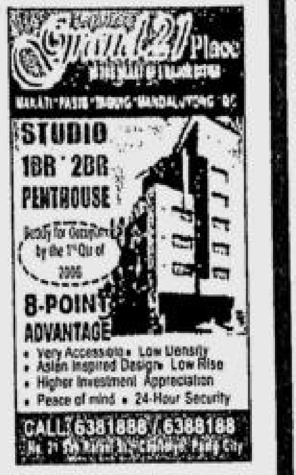
03 CRV AT 720K 09279884000

'96 Civic VTec
1600 Matic all power A1 cond Direct Buyers only P270T Best Offer 09178445100

'98 HONDA LEGEND 3.2 V6 83TKWH All Power/ Sunroof, 1st Owner 450K Call/Text 0917-8195870

Honda VTI Matic 02 Nov Model 20T Km 1st Owned Casa Maintained Very Well Kept Seldom Used 490 •0917-3221877•

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE


Grand 21 Place
MAKATI · PASIG · [illegible] · MANDALUYONG · QC
STUDIO
1BR 2BR
PENTHOUSE
Ready for Occupancy by the 1st Qtr of 2006
8-POINT ADVANTAGE
• Very Accessible • Low Density
• Asian Inspired Design • Low Rise
• Higher Investment Appreciation
• Peace of mind • 24-Hour Security
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No. 21 [illegible] Pasig City

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**PEUGEOT**

Authorized Peugeot Dealer

**Lion Motors, Inc**

315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.
Makati City
**894 27 36**
**840 27 36**
**894 29 10**
peugeotsales@lionmotors.com.ph

#### HYUNDAI

Hyundai Starex (9 seater AT) 2001 Model, Pear Beige Mileage: 36,000 TAX NOT PAID. Bid must not be lower than USD 6,000. Pls. send your bid in a sealed envelope. Deadline to submit 19 December 2005. Royal Netherlands Embassy 9F King's Court Bldg I 2129 Chino Roces Avenue Makati City

#### MITSUBISHI

04 L200 Strada 09216117609

L300'95 Closed Van 130T Neg 09178557978/8384275 Gery

#### TOYOTA

'96 CAMRY 340T 1st Owner Good Condition · Tel. 0917-8134463

'96 LITE ACE P220T Neg. 780-1517 • 0917-8166584

#### VOLKSWAGON

97 POLO CLASSIC 130T 0915-9485016

#### OTHER CAR BRANDS

**BERYLLE CARS** Araneta Ctr Cubao nr All Mall finance T-in consignment Pajero Trooper Lite-TownAce Delica Serena Largo Estima Safari Surf Fargo Rvr Elf Canter 4-6W etc slot rental 0917-8342020 / 02-9120647

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

**MARIAN** CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

CRV Innova Starex 9483535

REVO w/driver 9272821

**ABC** OPEN 24 HRS.
HI-ACE*STAREX*CRV L300*URVAN*REVO
NEW CARS/SUV/4X4/BUSES
MLA:536-8822*303-9789
Q.C.:426-2278*426-4084

### HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Warehouse Garage Sale Container Vans/Gensets Forklift /Drig tools etc. Mike/Glo tel. 807-1862/63

### WANTED TO BUY

BILI KO O2 MO T-8990215

### CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% Car Lending 656-0140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 7262780

---

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**IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS**

| HOST COUNTRY | FIELD/FACULTY | TRAINEESHIP ALLOW. |
|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | Architects | GBP 800/MO |
| Germany | Chemical Engineers | EUR 700/MO |
| Switzerland | Agriculture/Horticulture<br>Electrical Engineers | CHF 2,300/MO<br>CHF 2,100/MO |
| Belgium | Chemical Engineers<br>Material Science | EUR 750/MO<br>EUR 750/MO |
| Brazil | Architects<br>Automation Engineers | BRL 330/MO<br>BRL 300/MO |
| Sweden | Industrial Engineers | SEK 13,000/MO |
| India | Computer Engineer | INR 17,000/MO |

Hospitality Program in the USA, UK, Canada, Australia & other parts of Europe also available! Traineeship allowance from USD$700~

*For details, please contact:*

**allies** INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS
1 & 2 F Trinidad Bldg. 1111 UN Ave. cor A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Phone: 526.0196 • 522.2073 Facsimile 522.7617
E-mail: contactus@allies-phils .com **www.allies-phils .com**

*SOLE COOPERATING INSTITUTION OF* **I A S T E** (Int'l Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) *IN THE PHILIPPINES*

www.iaeste.org

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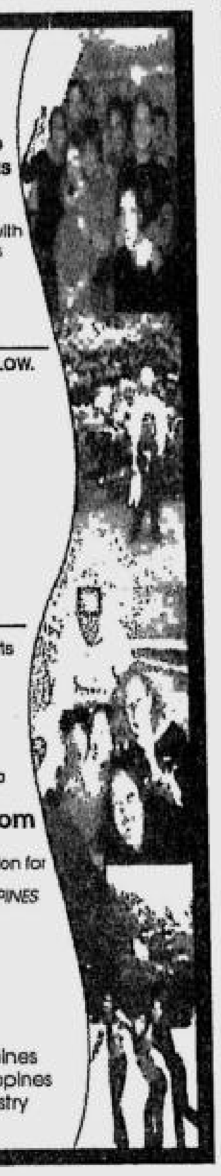
- British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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**YOU NEED MONEY!**

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***SAN MIGUEL PRODUCTS *** Purefoods, Magnolia, Monterey, Ginebra, Gran Matador, San Mig Coffee, etc. ***COCA-COLA PRODUCTS*** Coke, Sprite, Hi-C, etc. ***CARTOON NETWORK *** Disney, Snoopy, Barbie, Matchbox, etc.* **TITA'S TOCINO, MEGA SARDINES, HOMI, SAUCY-MI, CARICA, EXTREME MAGIC SING, *WATCHES*** Cherie Paris, Moi Swiss, **etc. MICHEL ANDRE, KOBE Shoes, Beauty Products** * Savona, Purella, Slim Mints, Green Tea Fat Burner* **Fashion Accessories, apparel** and a whole lot more.

ATTEND FREE
**"ENTREPRENEURSHIP" ORIENTATION**
**December 12, 14, 16 , 2005**
**(Monday, Wednesday, Friday)**
**10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm**
**December 18, 2005 (Sunday)**
**1:00 pm, 4:00 pm**
**GROUND FLOOR, OCTAGON BLDG.**
**(Back of Megamall), San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig**

NAME:

Address:

Contact Nos.

COME IN BUSINESS ATTIRE

RAFFLE PRIZES will be given away!
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**Structural Steel Detailers**
• Computer Literate • Xsteel software exp. is preferred
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## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CAR LOAN

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 6966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494 0464771344 09179870097

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494 0464771344 09179870097

### HEALTH & BEAUTY

Rush Cheap Doppler Diag Set Pulseoxim 09274723428

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

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DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL Trains with Full Guarantee **Call 721-3736**

Shih Tzu M 3mos w/Shots Papers 13K 0922-8470800

Yorkshire Terrier Puppy Tel No. 5368746 M/F

### WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
**BUY • SELL • PAWN**
**ROLEX+OTHERS**
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
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**SWISS WATCH LOANS**
LOW 5% INTEREST
AGENCIA DE MAKATI 889-7956

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7220433 • 4123543

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**PCCI**
12th AKU & 24th FCI SHOW
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
EXPO PILIPINO, CLARK FIELD
ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA
December 17 & 18, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mr. KOSEI TAKEDA (JPN)
Mr. KENNETH EDH
(Sweden)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
*SPONSORS*
ROYAL CANINE DOG FOOD
EUKANUBA DOG FOOD
ALPO DOG FOOD

### GARAGE SALE

BIG **GARAGE SALE**
**Dec. 13-17**
(9 am to 5 pm)
CLOTHES • SHOES • BAGS • FURNITURES • TOYS • HOME ACCS. • GOLF CLUBS, ETC.
No. 03 Ponce St.,
San Lorenzo Vill.,
Makati City

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that extrajudicial settlement of estate of the late MANUEL L. GUATLO with waiver of shares per Doc 192, Page 39, Book III, series of 2005 before notary public Atty. Jess Anthony Q. Yu of Makati City (PDI-Dec. 4, 11, & 18 2005)

### PERSONAL

HOLY SPIRIT, THANK YOU!

ST. CLAIRE, THANK YOU!

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code: alb2004 8531008 09178901851

MLM Visit www.lamagel.com/rich Tess / Cesar 831-1112 0917-8838088

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS
Office of the Regional Director
Revenue Region No. 03
Tuguegarao City

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

In view of the failure of the bidding conducted on December 7, 2005, the Bureau of Internal Revenue through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name of Project | : | BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE |
| Location | : | BIR, Revenue Region No. 03, Tuguegarao City<br>(Revenue District Offices included) |
| Approved Budget | | P693,000.00 |
| Contact Duration | : | January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006 |

All interested parties may get the bidding requirements/terms from Ms. Cirila R. Alegre, Head, BAC Secretariat, BIR Regional Office, ATI Bldg., Don Domingo, Tuguegarao, City starting December 12, 2005. Submission of the sealed bids will be until December 27, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. The opening and deliberation of the bids will be at 9:00 a.m. on the same day and will be held at the BIR Regional Office.

The criteria to be used by the BIR are the following: a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; b) examination and evaluation of bids; and c) post qualification shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR-BAC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids mostly advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. 844-3779/844-2883.

Approved:
(Sgd.) THELMA S. MILABAO
OIC-Asst. Regional Director
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – December 11 & 18, 2005)

---

**AMA BANK**

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MEMBER:
**AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES**
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**2004/2005 NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE AWARDEE**
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**2004/2005 PHILIPPINE MARKETING EXCELLENCE AWARDEE**
**TOP CAR LOAN BANK**
**2005 NATIONAL CONSUMERS QUALITY AWARDEE**

**USED CAR LOAN PROMO**
**SPECIAL INTEREST RATE AS LOW AS**
**7% p.a.**
ACCEPTABLE YEAR MODELS
**1991-2005**

Also available:
**AMA BANK**
**CAR - LATERAL LOAN**
**Cash Loan Using Your**
CAR AS COLLATERAL!
**Fast Processing and Check release.**
**For more details Pls. call at Tel. Nos.**
**413-5777 / 372-6698 / 372-6526 / 373-9913**
**373-3901 loc. 8302/8303/8220**

---

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**
Venture Capital Required, Australian Co. Investment required 200,000 U.S. Very High Returns. Manufacturing Industry in the Philippines or Asia would be an advantage. 20% Share holding offered to the right investor. Our rep will be in Manila until 8th Jan. 2006. For further details contact **BRETT** on +61 298924277 or Email to saferack@optusnet.com.au

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PART TIME WORK, EARN UP2 17,000/MON. 8404457

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RETIRE 2YRS 09169051567

RIGHT PRODUCTS RIGHT CO RIGHT SYSTEM RIGHT PPL RIGHT MLM 09209512158

NEED SIDELINE! Set your Hrs! P/F up tp 20K/mo. 376-2642 & 44

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

ASIAN Specialty Fine Restaurant MM Franchise Sale 09103108886

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE

AIRCON TECHNICIAN 8997097

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### FEMALE

CPA Bkeper Exec Asst. Computer Expert 25YO bite Cainta Resd. Send resume caesar_cortes@yahoo.com 0917-8838088

### MALE/FEMALE

Lady Dentist (F) Dental Tech(M) Robinsons Nova 9301797

URGENT HIRING CALL CENTER AGENT PLS CALL 897-6062 LOOK FOR TRAY / AMY OR SEND YOUR RESUME @ tcarson @ellickcorp.com

VETERINARIAN 09196366345

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**722-1144**
**722-1155**

---

**Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation**
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**
ITB No.: 06-51-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested suppliers in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project** | : Supply, Delivery & Installation of Axminster Carpets for Casino Filipino – Cebu (Total Area: 1,100 sq.m.) & Casino Filipino – Mactan (Total Area: 535.72 sq.m.) |
| **Brief Description** | : Machine woven; Construction: Full cut pile; Yarn Description: 80% wool, 20% nylon; Dye Method: Hank Dyeing Cabinet; Carpet Width: 12 ft.,; Binding Materials: Latex, 100% synthetic; Repeat Pattern: 1m x 1m |
| **Approved Budget** | : Four Million Nine Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Sixty Pesos (P4,907,160.00) |
| **Source of Funds** | : Internally Funded |

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance from **December 8, 2005 to January 5, 2006** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Three Pesos & 58/100 (Php 2,453.58).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| Pre-Bid Conference | December 14, 2005 (4 pm) |
| Submission of Bids | January 6, 2006 (2 pm) |
| Opening of Bids | January 6, 2006 (2 pm onwards) |

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BBAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO**
Chairperson, BAC 3

(PDI–Dec. 11 & 18, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBLITY AND TO BID**

ITB No. GOP/05-DSWD-012

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), a national government agency, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT OF DSWD FOR CY 2006.**

The Competitive Bidding procedures, pursuant to the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), shall be adopted in this undertaking.

The Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) is **TWENTY TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED PESOS (Php. 22, 435,200.00)** for the contract duration of twelve (12) months, covering January to December 2006.

Prospective bidders may obtain the complete set of bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat starting December 12, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).

A **Pre-bid Conference** is scheduled at **9:00 am** on **December 20, 2005** at the 2nd Flr. Administrative Conference Room, Old Building DSWD Central Office.

**Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements and bid proposals** shall be at **9:00 am** on **January 3, 2005** at the DSWD Administrative Conference Room. **Late bids will not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat**, 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telefax no. 951-7116 or trunkline no. 931-8101 local 217.

DSWD hereby reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **GINA GONZALES**
Assistant Director &
BAC Vice Chairperson

(PDI - Dec. 11 & 18, 2005)

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# OBITUARIES

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

## MSGR. VICENTE CRUZ GOMEZ

*Peacefully joined his Creator*
*on December 6, 2005 at the age of 91.*

His brother **Leonardo Gomez** and sister **Beatriz Ramos** and **Agatona Reyes** along with his nieces, nephews and grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Convent of Sta. Maria Bulacan Catholic Church. There will be a Concelebrated Mass at 2:00PM on Monday, December 12, 2005 at Sta. Maria Bulacan, Catholic Church. Then, will be transferred to Sulukan, Angat, Bulacan Chapel.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 13 at Angat Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00PM concelebrated Mass at Sulukan, Angat, Chapel.

## COL. [Ret.] JOSE ROSARIO AUSTRIA

*Peacefully joined our Lord on December 10, 2005*
*at the age of 87.*

His loving wife **Virginia Camacho**; children: **Rolando and Amy Concepcion, Jose Jr.** (†) and **Lani Yuson, Virma and Jimmy Castillo**; grandchildren: **Charisse, Analou, Kristine, Ramon, Jogel, Carl, Catherine, Angeli, & Michael**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Camp Aguinaldo Mortuary.

Interment will be on the 13th of December, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina after the 9:00AM Mass at St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, QC.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

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*Hail ! Blessed are you, O full of grace..*
*Obtain Justice for us through your prayer.*
*Save the peace of the whole world !*
*Be with us. You the Immaculate. Be with us."*
*- Pope John Paul II - Prayers and Devotions*

*In Loving Memory of the*

## 8th Death Anniversary

*of our Beloved*

**Paul T. Quintos**
April 28, 1966 - Dec. 13, 1997

**Michael T. Quintos**
Aug. 26, 1970 - Dec. 13, 1997

*Mass offerings:*

*11 December 2005*
*Nuestra Senora del Pilar,*
*Mamburao, Occ. Mindoro – 6am*
*Saint Joseph Church,*
*San Jose, Occ. Mindoro – 6:30am*
*Holy Cross, Sta Cruz, Occ. Mindoro*
*San Sebastian, Sablayan, Occ. Mindoro*
*St. Joseph, Paluan, Occ. Mindoro*
*San Raphael, Abra de Ilog, Occ. Mindoro*
*Mabuting Pastol, Magsaysay, Occ. Mindoro*
*Our Lady of Assumption, Lubang, Occ. Mindoro*
*13 December 2005*
*Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills – 6:15am*
*Sanctuario de San Antonio, Makati – 6am*
*St. Andrew's Church, Makati – 6am*
*Mary the Queen Parish, San Juan – 6am, 7am, 6pm*
*Our Lady of Mount Carmel, QC – 6am, 7am, 6pm*

*13 December 2005*
*Westminster Cathedral, London*
*Queen of the Apostles Church, New York – 12nn*
*Sta. Maria Maggiore Basilica, Rome*
*San Francisco Solano Church, Orange County, CA – 8:30am*
*St. Killian's Church, Mission Viejo, CA – 6:30am*
*San Lorenzo Ruiz, Walnut, CA – 7:00am*
*St. Denis Cathedral, Diamond Bar, CA-7:00am*
*St. Christopher Church, Taipei – 12nn*
*Sacred Heart Church, Taizhong, Taiwan– 8:30pm*
*Manila Cathedral, 7:30 am, 12:00nn*
*Sta. Cruz Parish – 8am, 5pm*
*Immaculate Concepcion, Manila – 6am, 6pm*
*Binondo Church, Manila – 6am, 7:30am*
*Minor Basilica, Quiapo Church, Manila – 6am, 6pm*
*St. Joseph Parish, Manila – 6pm*
*Spiritu Santo Parish, Manila – 6am, 6pm*

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**Message of Thanks**
*We the family of the late*

## Celia de Venecia Cruz

*Who passed away in the Grace of the Lord*
*on December 2, 2005*
*wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who helped us, grieved with us with their presence, prayers, messages of sympathy, kept vigil and who in countless ways comforted us in our bereavement.*
*Our Most Sincere Gratitude*

*Message of Thanks*

We, the loving husband **NARCISO** (†); children **OSCAR, JAIME & JOSEFINA**; grandchildren **NOEL, JAMES & CAMILLE** and all relatives and friends of the late

## RITA MANLAPIT ZALVIDEA

*who joined our Creator on November 25, 2005 at the age of 84.*

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect and grieved with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, messages of sympathy, kept vigil, joined the funeral rites and who in various generous ways gave us comfort at the time of our great loss and sorrow.

Our most sincere gratitude.

# CLASSIFIEDS

AYALA LAND, INC.

## INVITATION TO BID

ALI Bid Sale No. 07-2005

Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following items:

| LOT NO. | DESCRIPTION | LOCATION OF ITEMS | MINIMUM BID |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | One (1) lot Assorted Kitchen Wares and Equipment, Tables, Chairs, Decorative Items, Audio Equipment, Electronic Gadgets/Devices, Air Conditioning and Ventilation Equipment, Circuit Breakers. | Garden Square Bldg., Greenbelt Drive, Makati City | P118,500.00 |
| 2 | Two (2) units Generator Set<br>- 1 unit Cummins 475kVA with 3200 Li capacity day tank<br>- 1 unit Perkins 50kVA with 200 Li capacity day tank | Garden Square Bldg., Greenbelt Drive, Makati City | P820,000.00 |

Complete description of the items including the bid documents (Bid Forms, Bidders Tender and this Invitation to Bid) are available at Ayala Land, Inc - Materials Management Division (ALI-MMD), Bldg. 6, EDSA corner McKinley Road, Makati City. Contact person: Rey Lavapiez, Tel. No. 816-7471 (loc. 109), email address: lavapiezrey.mmd@ayalaland.com.ph.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at ALI-MMD on or before December 16, 2005 at exactly two o'clock p.m. The bids shall be labeled ALI-BID SALE No. 07-2005. Ocular inspection may be done before the set deadline of submission of bids.

A refundable bidder's deposit equivalent to ten (10) percent of the bid price in Cash (Philippine Currency) or in Certified Manager's Check in favor of Ayala Land, Inc. shall be enclosed with the sealed bid. Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable. A bid without the required bidder's bond shall be declared disqualified.

The bidder must sign the bid form, bidders tender and the sealed envelop across its flap. Unsigned documents shall be a ground for the disqualification of the bid offer. Any erasure, correction, and/or addition must be initialed by the bidder.

The sealed bids will be opened in the presence of the representatives from ALI-MMD, ALI-Audit and Systems, all participating bidders or their representatives and other interested parties.

The sale of the items shall be on an "As is, Where is" basis. The winning bidder shall undertake the full responsibility to acquire the necessary permits in order to have peaceful possession of the items included in the sale.

Upon evaluation and determination of the result of the bidding, a Notice of Award will be issued to the winning bidder. In the event that the winning bidder refuses to accept the award and/or abide by the conditions of the bid, the bid deposit will be forfeited in favor of ALI. The award shall then be given to the next qualified highest bidder.

Upon the winning bidder's acceptance of the Notice of Award, full payment must be made within three (3) working days at ALI-Treasury, 30/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. This will be in the form of cash or manager's check in favor of Ayala Land, Inc. A penalty of ten (10) percent of the bid price plus an additional interest based on the prevailing market rate shall be imposed if the winning bidder fails to withdraw the merchandise from the designated storage area after seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Award.

The award shall be made to the bidder who made the most advantageous offer to Ayala Land, Inc. ALI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the head of ALI's Materials Management Division and the ALI Comptroller whose decision shall be binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) JUANITO P. ROBALES
Vice President
Materials Management Division

(PDI--Dec. 11, 2005)

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PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Capitol, Oroquieta City, Telefax-088-531-1593

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the hereunder machinery, described as follows:

Name of Machinery
**4 units Farm Tractor-Brand New, Four Wheel Drive**
Engine : 78-80 Hp @ 2500 rpm, 4 cylinder natural aspirated diesel fuel engine, 3908 cc displacement, water-cooled cooling system
Transmission : Full synchromesh 12 Forward, 04 Reverse (12x4)
Steering : Hydrostatic Power steering
Linkage : Category II, 3500-3565 lifting capacity
PTO : Independent 540 economy rpm, 64-68 Hp Output power @ 623 rpm
Tire Size : Front-13.6x24, Rear-16.9x34
Safety Feature : Roll-Over Protective Structure (ROPS)
Std. Accessories : Canopy, Suspension Seat, Front Bumper Weights, Rear Wheel Weights, 3pt. Linkage, Swinging Drawbar, Toolbox, Set of Tools & Operators Manual.
**4 units-Disc Plow** : 4 pcs. of 26" diameter disc blades (Local)
**4 units-Trailer Harrow** : Wheeled type, 18 pcs. of 24" diameter disc blades, complete of hydraulic cylinder and hoses. (Local)
**2 units-Trailer** : 3-5 tons capacity, dumping type, complete of hydraulic cylinder & hoses, single or double wheel tires. (Local)
**2 units-Moldboard** : 3 bottoms, rigid steel tabular main frame. Effective depth of cut not less than 35 cm. width cut 112 cm., 3 pt. Category I/II. (Local)
**2 units-Shakeerator** : (Subsoiler) 1.5 has/day capacity, adjustable shank spacing, deep soil loosener with unique shattering action, power take-off driven. (Local)

**Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P10,000,000.00**
**Delivery Period** : Seven (7) Calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.
Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected.
Application for eligibility to bid must be received on or before December 12, 2005.
The Bidding Document shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Capitol Annex Building, Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental, starting December 16, 2005.
Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at Telefax No. 088-531-1593.

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Pre-Bid Conference | December 12, 2005 |
| 2. Receipt and Opening of Bids | December 28, 2005, 10:00 A.M. |

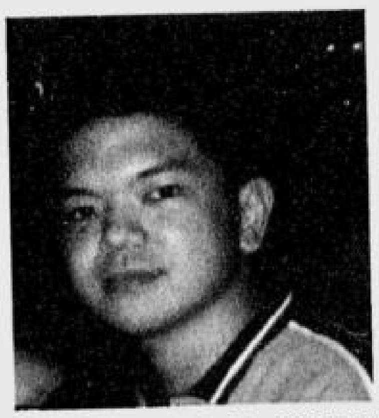
The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to the Provincial Treasurer, Province of Misamis Occidental.

The Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental – BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at anytime prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) CEZARITO N.J. CHIONG
Chairman

(PDI – Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



CARLO ANTONIO C. CORDERO
53 Lagdameo St., BF Homes, Parañaque City

The public is hereby notified that Mr. Carlo Antonio C. Cordero, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Geiser Maclang Communications, Inc. (GMCI) effective November 14, 2005.

Any transaction entered into by Mr. Cordero on behalf of Geiser Maclang Communications, Inc. after said date shall no longer be honored by the company.

Please report to GMCI any attempts by Mr. Cordero to transact business on the company's behalf.

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*"When it comes to spotting The Next Big Thing, you can probably call me an expert."*

**Mr. Joselito Santos** Ayala Westgrove Heights Resident

*"We were the first family to build a home at Ayala Alabang back in 1978.*
*It took a lot of imagination and courage for us to see the potential in*
*what you may call a very young village back then. But like many*
*decisions I've made in my life, it's really just a matter of foresight and faith.*
*Somehow I knew that Ayala Alabang was the Next Big Thing then.*
*That was the best investment I've made in my life. Until now.*

*My investment adventure continues at the latest Next Big Thing from Ayala Land –*
*Ayala Westgrove Heights. The best from Ayala Land just got better.*

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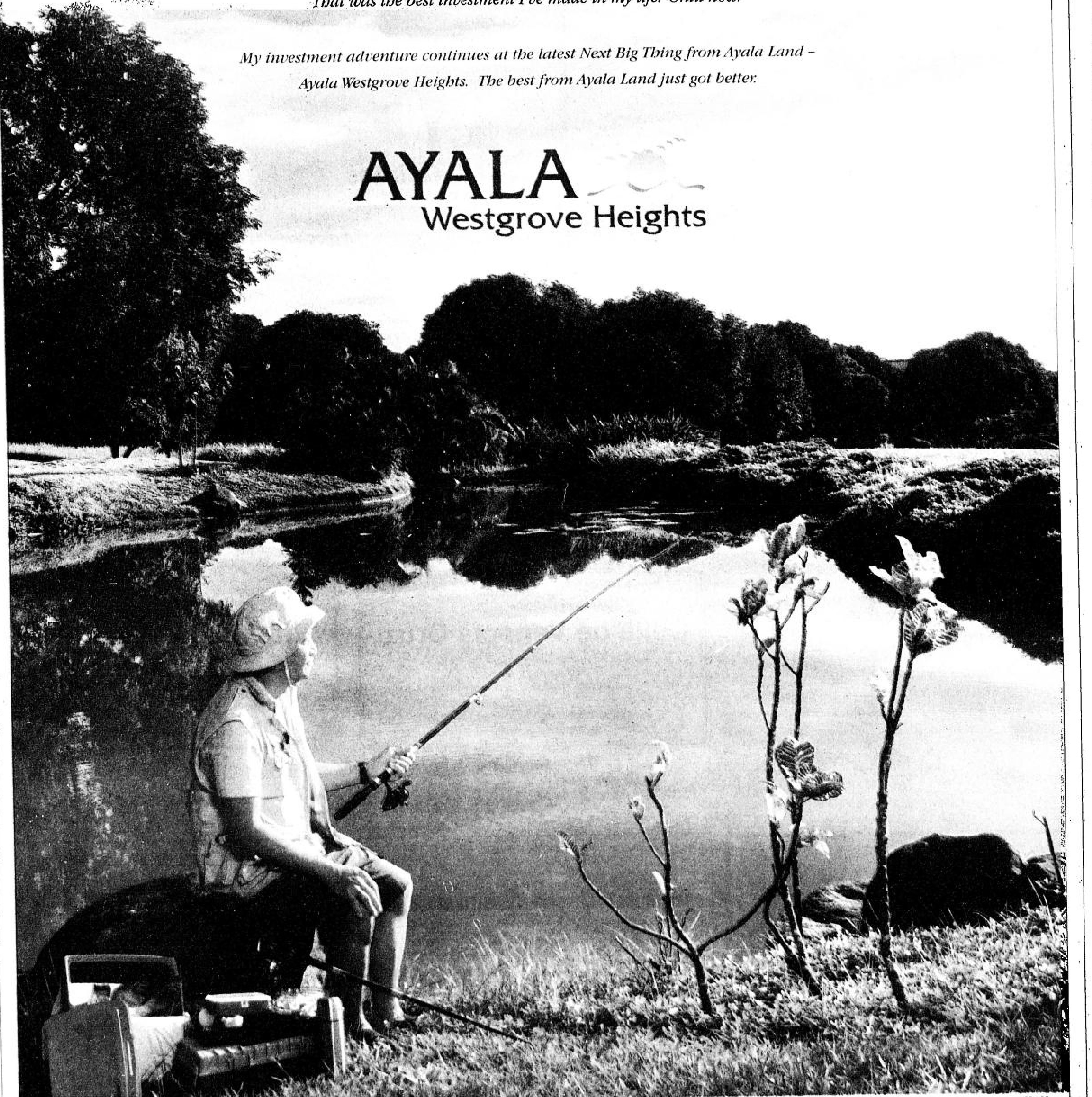
Westgrove Heights



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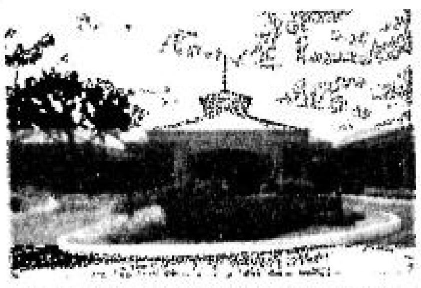
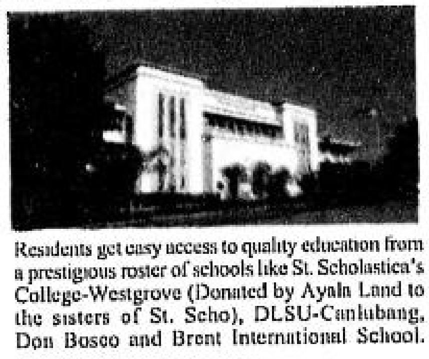
Live life to the fullest in a place touted as "The Next Big Thing". Much like its well-received predecessor, Ayala Alabang, Ayala Westgrove Heights is an upscale neighborhood that follows a grand vision of an exclusive, sustainable and progressive community.



It is a unique residential environment where many conveniences and well-executed ideas meet. To achieve this vision, Ayala Land has developed establishments such as the Westgrove Plaza.

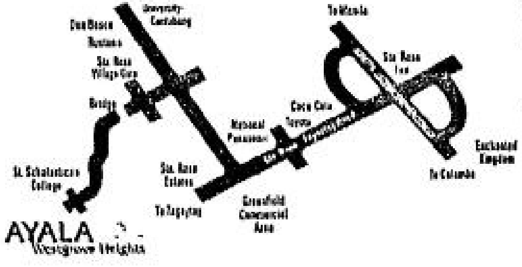
The Westgrove Plaza primarily serves the retail convenience and requirements of the residents. It consists of small shops like drugstores, bookstores, water stations, food outlets, a flower shop and a video rental shop. It's a compact, intimate commercial space in a quaint, natural setting.

Ayala Westgrove Heights also boasts of an educational hub in its immediate vicinity.



Residents get easy access to quality education from a prestigious roster of schools like St. Scholastica's College-Westgrove (Donated by Ayala Land to the sisters of St. Scho), DLSU-Canlubang, Don Bosco and Brent International School.

With a community so dynamic, convenient and accessible, there's truly no other place to look for than the Next Big Thing–Ayala Westgrove Heights.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005
C1

# Sunday LIFESTYLE

Text your feedback:
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2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

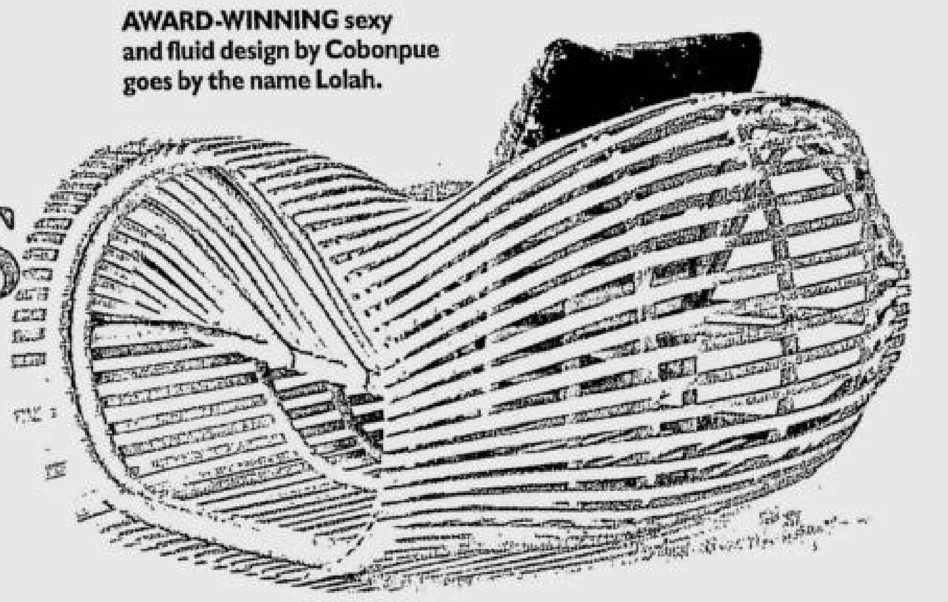
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Dreaming of a Gold Christmas
With a Goldilocks Black Forest Premium Cake.
Goldilocks
How Thoughtful, How Pinoy

## KENNETH COBONPUE

# 'We're still Asia's leaders in design'

## 'We should not be afraid of China. We can sell to China'



**AWARD-WINNING** sexy and fluid design by Cobonpue goes by the name Lolah.

FURNITURE CONTINUES TO be the frontline of our export industry and most of it is handmade in Cebu.

Lucky for Kenneth Cobunpue, he was born in Cebu to a mother who designed, manufactured and sold rattan furniture. Betty Chen Cobonpue ran a furniture factory right in the house.

Lucky for Cebu, Cobonpue has furnished the industry with passion, inventiveness and modern sensibility, more than enough to give the business the leading edge over the competitive factories in Thailand and China.

**PLAYTIME**

*By the Staff*

How passionate is Cobunpue? Well, he didn't stop with a Industrial Design degree from the Pratt Institute in New York. He went on to study furniture marketing and production in Germany.

Although his training was in designing products made by machines, he found his calling in designing handmade furniture for the family-owned Interior Crafts of the Island Inc., which now turns out high-end, modern furniture that carries his name as its brand.

The genius of Cobonpue is that he is able to use raw material in a way that has never been done before. He can make rattan look like bentwood, for instance. In his La Luna chair, which is made of split rattan, two weaves come together, changing patterns midstream but without showing any seams. He uses bamboo, *abaca*, sea grass, water hyacinth, cotton, wire wrapped with fabric, metal—anything that can be bent, molded and sat, slept and dined on. In Cobonpue's one-hectare workshop in Cebu, natural rattan is shaped into a barrel that becomes soft seating, *walis tingting* is turned into torch lamps, boxes become tables and egg-shaped structures open up into chairs.

Married and with two children, ages 5 and 7, the 36-year-old Cobonpue is a multi-awarded designer. His latest is the 2005 Design For Asia Award, the most coveted in the region. His Lolah chair is among 11 designs honored in the international competition organized by the Hong Kong Design Center to honor designs that reflect or move the Asian lifestyle. The Lolah won for its simple structure, sculptural form and novel use of rattan—poles and strips of it—fastened together with glue, nails and nylon wire, a process inspired by traditional Asian shipbuilding.

Cobonpue's work has been hailed in the International Design Yearbook, which is the bible of good design, as a breakthrough in design.

An active member of Movement 8, a premier circle of Filipino designers, Cobonpue gives lectures all around Asia and represents the Philippines in international furniture shows.

In Manila, Cobonpue's furniture may be seen and bought at Budji Layug's B@home showroom on Nicanor Garcia Street, Makati City. To view Cobonpue's furniture designs, visit www.kennethcobonpue.com.

**How many awards have you won?**

*Marami na.* Almost all of my designs have won awards abroad. Japan has a good design award. I've gotten it seven times.

**Hall of Famer *ka na dapat*. What do awards do for your business?**

Oh, it's good for business in the particular country where the award is given.

**Have you always wanted a career in design?**

Yes, I wanted to design products. I didn't know whether it was furniture or not. But we had the furniture business already. My mom had started it. It was rattan furniture. My mother is also a designer and she had her own technique of working with rattan.

**Are you still using predominantly rattan?**

Everything, including rattan and steel.

**Do you varnish your rattan?**

Yes... We stain it.

**How long does rattan last?**

*Siguro* 20 years, a long time actually.

**Do you still have rattan in Cebu?**

We still have but the problem is rattan is a vine. It grows in the forest, so it needs the forest. *Kung walang* forest, no more rattan. You can replant the forest and rattan will grow.

**So you guys should take care of your forests in Cebu. Are you doing that?**

Yes, the Furniture Association is replanting the forest. Actually, Cebu has no more rattan.

'WE'RE/ C2

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# 'We're still Asia's leaders in design'

From page C1

Mindanao has the rattan.

**What kind of wood do you usually use?**

For the frames, we use local wood. We use mahogany, rubber wood. For imported ones, we use oak, walnut.

**Do you also use bamboo?**

Yes, we also use bamboo. And *buri*, which is what they use for *walis tingting*.

**How does the furniture support (the weight)?**

There's very fine steel to keep it together. There are braces, very fine braces, like in the Voyage. This is the bed that Brad Pitt bought in Los Angeles. He had a single bed custom-made. It's made of steel and *buri*. He also bought a Pigalle and a Croissant.

**Can your furniture be used outdoors?**

Yes, those that are made of synthetic, plastic.

**How long does it take to weave a chair?**

About 10 days with only one person. They're faster now, [but] in the beginning they usually take a week.

**How are your prices?**

*'Pag dito* it's not expensive. *Siyempre* when it reaches [abroad], it's multiplied by six or seven.

**For the world market *'yan* (designs)?**

*Meron din dito. Kay* Budji.

**Why did you name one of your designs Suzy Wong?**

Remember that film, "The Secret Life of Suzy Wong"? *Kasi* it's oriental, very Asian-inspired *iyung* screens.

**Are they (furniture) heavy? They look heavy.**

No, they're very light because they're all skeletal. Very light.

**Do you use nails?**

No.

**What's that chair?**

Dowel. This one's a very difficult chair to do *kasi* the wood is cut in different angles. There's nothing straight so, *'pag* dowel, it has to be cut precisely. It doesn't angle just one way, it angles *pa* the other way. Tilt *pa*. Each piece *mayroong* jig.

**Do you use computers?**

No, I don't use computers. *Kamay lang*... I have actual prototypes.

**Why do you resist computers?**

It's hard to see things three-dimensionally on a two-dimensional [screen].

***Pero umiikot naman* (image on the computer).**

Yes, *puwede rin pero* virtual pa rin. But *ito* you can sit on it, the scale is there. You can test it.

**How many artisans do you have?**

We have 250.

***Eh di ang laki ng* place *mo sa* Cebu.**

Yes, one hectare.

**Are you able to meet the demand?**

Yes.

**Do you indicate that your products are made in the Philippines?**

Yes. I think I'm the only designer who insists on that. I demand that they sell my furniture under my name. Otherwise, they can't buy from me. They cannot distribute my products. I think this is important for the Philippines.

**We're surprised your furniture's still not being made in China.** (laughter)

No, they cannot do it. It's too difficult. First, they don't have the raw material. Second, they don't have the skill. That's why we're selling to China.

**High-end?**

Yes, high-end. That's why I gave a lecture that we shouldn't be afraid of China. In fact, we can sell to China.

***Malakas ka sa* China, Kenneth?**

Growing (laughs).

**Where else are you selling other than China and the Philippines?**

Southern Europe, Spain, Portugal. The US also. Also the Mediterranean because the furniture is tropical.

**So there's no danger that China will take over this kind of furniture business just because labor is cheaper there?**

Actually, labor in China is about the same as Cebu. *Siguro* in the far-flung areas of China, it's cheaper but they don't have the skill. If we're talking about skilled workers, cost is same as Cebu.

**Sheer number *yung sa kanila. Ang dami nila eh.***

*Dami lang. Sa* wood, *kasi* wood as a product is machine-based, so *talo tayo doon*. But weaving is all done by hand. Labor cost is about the same.

**Do you subcontract or is everything done by your workers within the factory?**

Yes, I subcontract. The difficult pieces are done in the factory. *'Yung mga iba,* like the metal frames, they're done outside.

**Are you the one who thinks of the names for your designs?**

Yes. Sometimes *nga* a year after *wala pang* name because we can't find the right name.

**How do you visualize your designs?**

I take inspiration from almost anything. I was recounting in a lecture once about how the Beatles created their songs. For example, "Eight Days a Week." They were in a taxicab, then they were asking the driver, "How was your day?" *Sabi niya*, he was really working hard it was like working eight days a week. So they used that to make the song. I gave that talk to designers so that they could find inspiration everywhere.

**Do you also give talks to students here?**

I give talk to students, yes, to the faculty at the University of the Philippines, Cebu, *sa* Visayas. They have an industrial design program so I'm training them every week. It's informal. I'm not in the faculty.

**So you just give them talks.**

Yes, I give them talks and I teach them. I do workshop. These are the abstract models. They're clay. It goes from here. We create something to help them to see. Then we also have paper models.

**Does UP offer industrial design now?**

*Meron na ngayon*. This year they opened it. Their problem is they don't have the qualified faculty. They're all *mga* painting majors.

***Alam ko sa* Mapua *meron* industrial design.**

Mapua, UST, UP, PWU, *meron*.

PHOTOS: ERIK ARAZAS

Industrial design has been around. *Ang problema natin* we don't have the industry. We don't have the industry because we don't produce anything here.

**We don't have the [industry] to absorb the graduates. What else is new?** (laughter)

Yes. *Kasi yung* industries *natin*, like furniture, are craft-based. Not machine, not industrial-based.

**Oh, so you also had designs that were never produced?**

*Ang dami*. We have to put the project aside until we find the right material.

**How many out of 10, for example?**

*Siguro mga* half are discarded or half are put aside because we have not found the right materials, or if there are any, they are too expensive.

**Do you have to readjust the scale of your furniture when you send them abroad?**

No, it's the same, no adjustment. Actually, most modern furniture go to cities all over the world. The cities are all the same. They're all small. The apartments are small, the rooms are small. Everywhere you go, even in the US, the same.

**What do you sell to the Americans?**

The Americans go for traditional furniture. Those with big, big houses don't want modern furniture. Modern pieces are for city living.

**How many designers do you have?**

*Ako lang*, but I'm currently training two others *kasi* one's an interior designer.

***Tinuloy mo lang yung* furniture [business] *ng* mama *mo*?**

*Tinuloy ko lang*. Same. I just hired more people.

**What was it called before when your mom was running it?**

It's still called the same, Interior Crafts of the Islands, but we were not selling under a brand.

**Now your brand is Kenneth Cobonpue.**

Yes, correct.

**You know how they say you shouldn't give your name to the business because if it fails, your name goes with it?**

That's the other side of it. So you have to make sure it doesn't fail because it's your name.

**How many chairs do you produce?**

It depends on which chair.

**Dragnet, for instance.**

Dragnet, in a month, maybe 30, 40, because this is the first year we introduced it. Next year there will be more.

> 'I demand that they sell my furniture under my name. Otherwise, they cannot buy from me. They cannot distribute my products. I think this is important for the Philippines'

**How do you ensure the consistency of the quality considering it's handmade?**

We have quality inspectors. We're very strict.

**How hands-on are you?**

Very, very hands-on.

**How do you do your marketing?**

Through shows and then through distributors abroad. We have a catalogue, website, press kits.

**Do you have representatives [abroad]?**

We have one in the US and one in Hong Kong.

**But do these people also represent other furniture makers?**

Depends. The one in the US, no. We have four partners there. It's a partnership.

**Do you advertise?**

We do in the US in interior design magazines like Metropolitan Home, Décor, etc.

**Are your items used for photo shoots as well?**

Yes, they use our furniture in a lot of photo shoots. Vogue, which is a fashion magazine, uses them a lot.

**Do they include you in the credits?**

They do. They have to.

**What do your buyers tell your representatives why they buy your furniture?**

Because they're very unique. Each piece is handmade and there's nothing like it.

**What is your bestseller?**

My very first design, the Yin and Yang. We still make it now, seven years after its launch.

**How many do you make in a year?**

Depends from year to year. Depends on the demand, if there are projects like new hotels.

**Modern hotels, I guess, must be your clients.**

Yes, especially outdoors now. Modern Asian is a trend. It's everywhere.

**Do you sell your furniture cheaper here?**

Yes, it's cheaper here in Asia.

**Subjective *'yang* cheaper *ha*.** (laughter)

Asia is always cheaper. (laughter)

**Cheaper but is it the same? *Hindi siya* Kenneth Cobonpue-like? (Laughter) *Hindi* toned-down Kenneth Cobonpue?**

No, lower priced *lang* because lower margins. But the products are *parehong-pareho*.

**Who are your influences?**

A lot. Architect Santiago Calatrava, designer Luigi Colani, the Movement 8 designers, my mom Betty. I also look at fashion, like Issey Miyake. I like—he's a good friend of mine—Marcel Wanders. Modern *pero may pagka*-weird.

**How do you relate your works to those of Issey Miyake?**

Miyake is revolutionary, I think, in fashion. *'Yung mga gawa niya tactile, mga* pleats, *mga* never-been-done.

***Saka alam mo pagkakita mo na* Issey Miyake *'yun.***

That's exactly what I wanted to do in furniture.

**Well, now they sure can tell that a furniture piece is a Kenneth Cobonpue. Sometimes *nga* we think it's Kenneth Cobonpue *kahit hindi pala*. (laughter)**

*Hindi naman.* (laughter)

**If for example an American company offers to do a version of your furniture, say a toned-down version...**

It has to be something different. I don't think it's good to tone down something *kasi mawawala yung* design.

**After school you immediately worked in the furniture [business]?**

Yes.

**You mean your mom didn't give you a break? (laughter)**

No, I came back.

**Are there other designers in the family?**

My sister is in fashion design but she's in the US.

**So family business *pa rin ito*?**

Yes, family business. It's just my mother and then *ako*. The others are not interested.

**Even if it's a billion-dollar business? (laughter)**

*Hindi naman*. (laughter)

**Who are your biggest clients in Cebu?**

In Cebu? A lot of people buy one piece. For collection.

**Who buys your furniture locally?**

There's a lot of people actually—designers, architects.

**What stores abroad carry your stuff?**

They're not big shops because I sell to a specialized market—it's a niche. These are niche markets, like designer showrooms in the West Coast. We also have a dealer in Texas.

**How about Scandinavia?**

Scandinavia, *meron din* but not as much as the, you know, in cold countries. They want something solid. They don't want something *na butas-butas* or skeletal *kasi malamig*.

**Does rattan warp?**

No, rattan doesn't warp.

**So you've really treated it.**

Yes.

**How long is the guarantee?**

Depends. Outdoor furniture is up to three years.

***Malaki ba* demand for outdoor furniture?**

Now, yes. There's nothing in the market like it.

**So are you selling more outdoor furniture now?**

In the United States, yes. *Sa mga* projects, *mga* hotels.

**Who are your rivals? Can they imitate the designs?**

Yes, they can copy. There are many companies, if you go to Cebu or the Cebu fair, *ginagaya na*.

They can see it and make their own versions.

**And they're sold at a cheaper price, I suppose.** (laughter)

Yes, but not that big a difference because they're still made in Cebu. So the difference is not big and then *walang* brand.

**Where is Philippine design going in furniture?**

I think we're still leaders in Asia. But the Thais are catching up and they are supported very well by the government. They have a new design center. Here Citem is doing very well but I think its budget has been cut. We need support for trade fairs. It's very expensive to show abroad.

***Siguro ang laki-laki ng* booth *ng* Thailand.**

The Thais are doing very well even in fashion. They have so much money. Like in fashion, they invited Giorgio Armani to come. But we're still the country to beat in terms of design.

**What about protection by government in terms of pricing, like wood, when you import?**

Now, wood has gone up in price because of the log ban. We get tax-free materials and equipment. *Dapat naman.* Five percent of the population is involved in the furniture industry.

**How long have you been designing?**

10 years. The first piece was in 1998. I started *mga* 1995.

**And how many collections do you have out there in the market?**

We have maybe 20 now. They're available. We still make all of them. Actually, more *kasi 'yung iba hindi* collection. One piece *lang*.

**Do you experience designer's block?**

*Meron din*, especially when there is pressure is to design something by a specific date or something revolutionary.

**How do you get over that?**

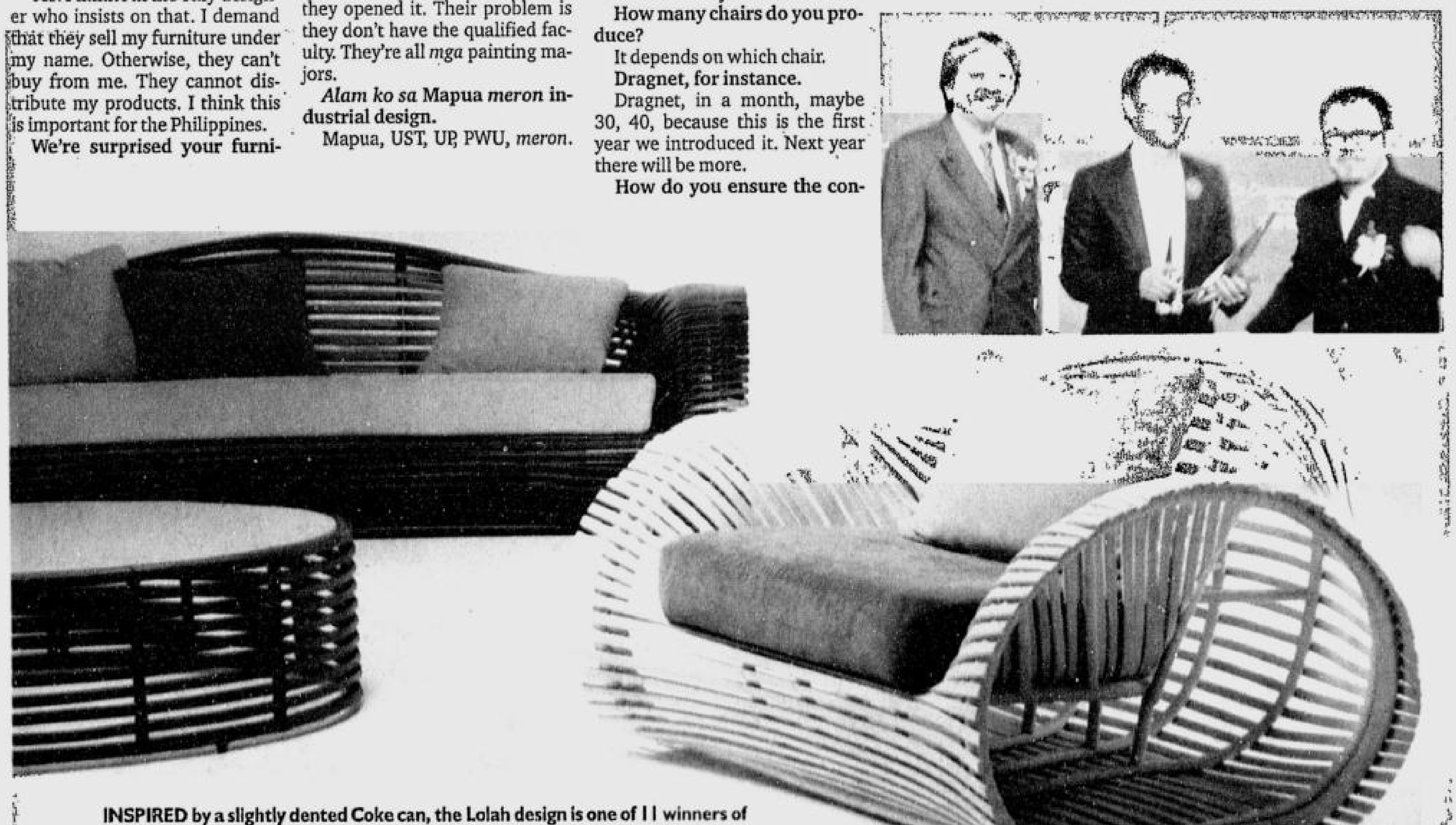
You just don't do anything. Leave it. Don't force it.

**How many designs do you come up with in a year?**

It used to be two because I was the only one doing it. Now, with two more people—I just started a year with them—I hope we'll do more.

**When you say a collection, what is it composed of?**

Everything, the works—living room, bedroom, they're under one concept. But when you say two collections, there's usually something else, *mga* accent pieces, lighting, screens.


**INSPIRED** by a slightly dented Coke can, the Lolah design is one of 11 winners of the 2005 Design for Asia Awards given out in Hong Kong. Inset shows furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue receiving his award from John Tsang, HK secretary of commerce and industry, and Freeman Lau, chair of HK Design Centre.

**Do you design vases?**

Now we have a design for a vase.

**Lamps?**

*Meron din.*

**How do you relax aside from lounging in your chairs?** (laughter)

I travel. I go to the gym regularly. I like vintage cars. Not much time for leisure.

**What's in your garage? How many cars?**

Four. Just one vintage and one pseudo. (Laughs) We drive around Cebu. We drive to the coast. We drive up the hills. Very nice roads and the view.

**How long does it take to drive from tip to tip?**

Cebu? Five, six [hours].

**You said you like to travel. What is your favorite city?**

I actually like Tokyo. I like Tokyo because it has a good blend of old and new. It's still Asian yet so cosmopolitan. It's always hip. There's always something to discover. Their designs are very good. They do it their way. *Kasi* in other places *parang* copies.

**Why don't you have your own showroom in Manila?**

I'm still thinking about it but I need to have more products. It's hard to survive with just furniture. Then I'd have to travel here more and more.

**Before entering a design course, what did you first take up?**

Business, like any Chinese. My father wanted me to take up business. So I went to UP Diliman but I didn't finish here. After two years, I went to PRATT Institute in New York. *Dito* two years, then four years, and then I went to Italy. Then I had two years in Germany. Studied again in Germany, furniture production and marketing.

**It's good that you have a business where you can practice what you studied in school.**

Yes. And you can design anything. There's no pressure because you own the company.

**Do you think you'll teach industrial design?**

Maybe, *kasi* they're only on their first year. Maybe when their first batch of students are on their junior or senior year I will teach.

**If we lack good instructors, how can we produce more people like you?**

I'm helping them out. I'm training first the teachers *para* multiplier effect. There's a shortage of good designers. Even in the ads you see in Cebu or here in Manila, *maraming* "wanted furniture designer." Imagine, there was no industrial design course in Cebu which is supposed to be the seat of the furniture industry. There wasn't a single course there. *Ngayon lang inumpisahan nila*. It's a bit too late.

**What about interior design? Doesn't it include furniture?**

They only have one course, I think, on furniture design. In industrial design, you study construction, you study form. In interior design, you study spaces...

Architecture is the closest thing you could study. Industrial design is really a fusion of art and engineering. You need to go to school to understand the materials and learn the methods.

The problem is that design schools here are patterned after the design schools in the United States where design is an industry. So the schools here train their students to design toasters, cars, etc. Actually there should be a link between the academe and the design community.

**What about crafts designers?**

Of course there's always craftsmen. In each country, they're always there. In Europe, when the industrial revolution took place, *nag-iba na*. They had to study how products are made by machine.

**And what stage are we in?**

We're still in the artisan age. That's a big disadvantage. That's why China is already there—they have that industrial base. We don't have that industrial base. Our knowledge of plastics *na lang* is primitive.

**Do you use your furniture in your house?**

No, because I live still with my mom. (Laughter) But I'm building a house in Cebu now.

**Will it be modern?**

Yes, modern.

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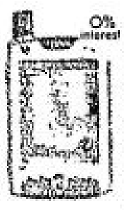

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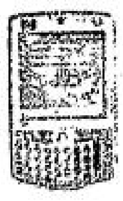

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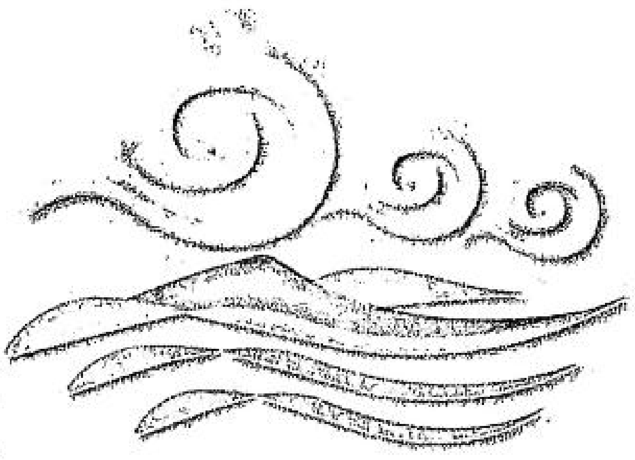

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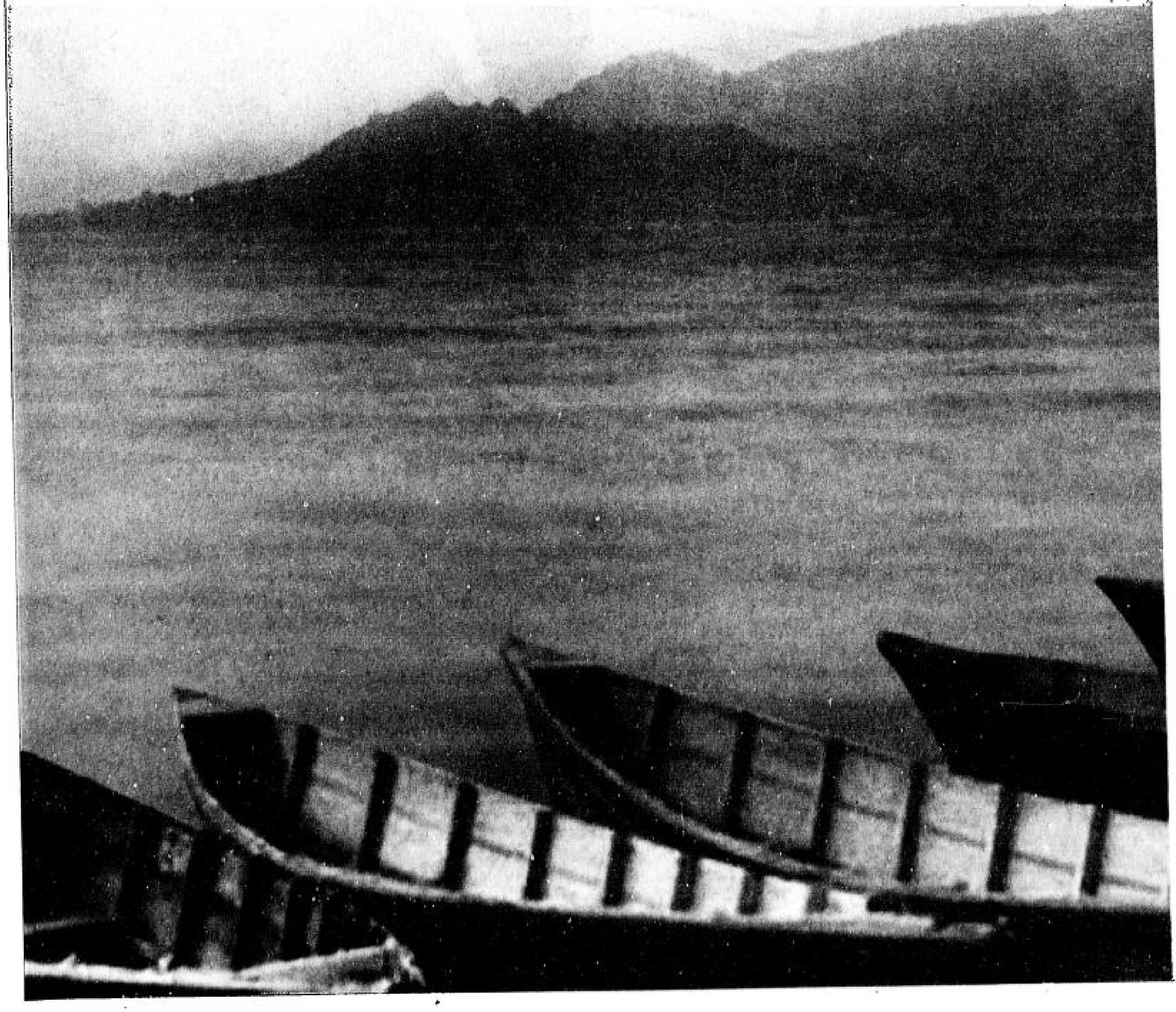

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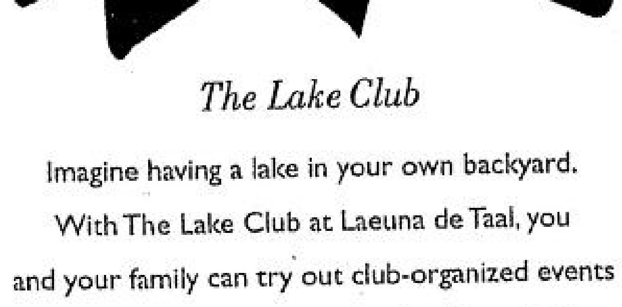

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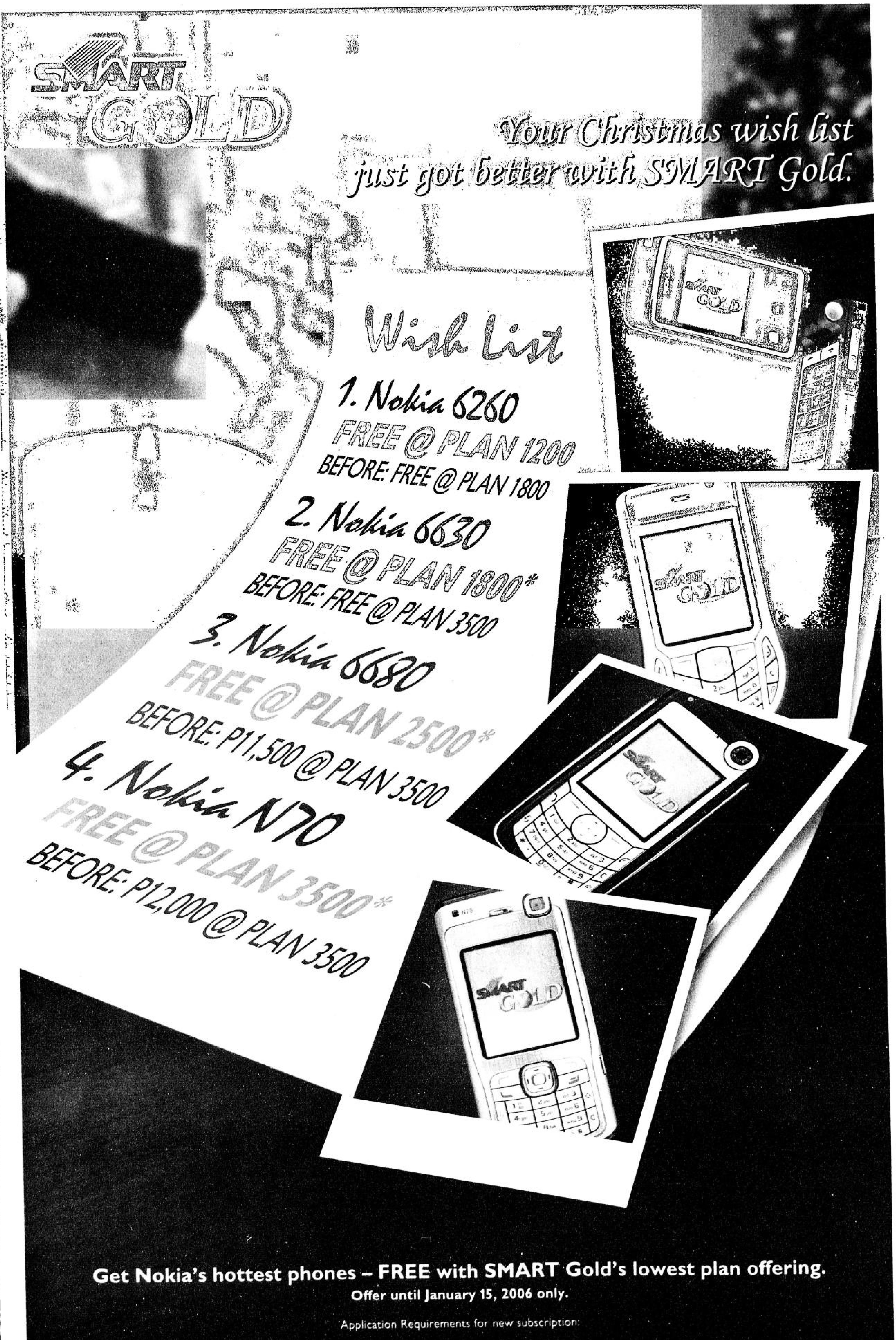

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# Sunday LifeStyle

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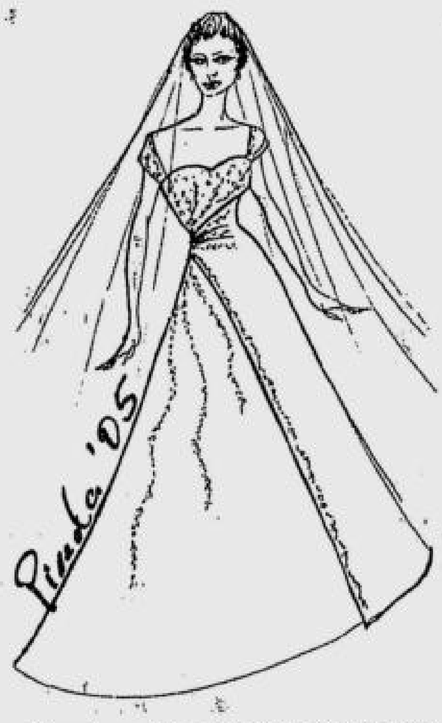
## *Milestones*

*We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the* INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*



### LE VAN-DE CASTRO

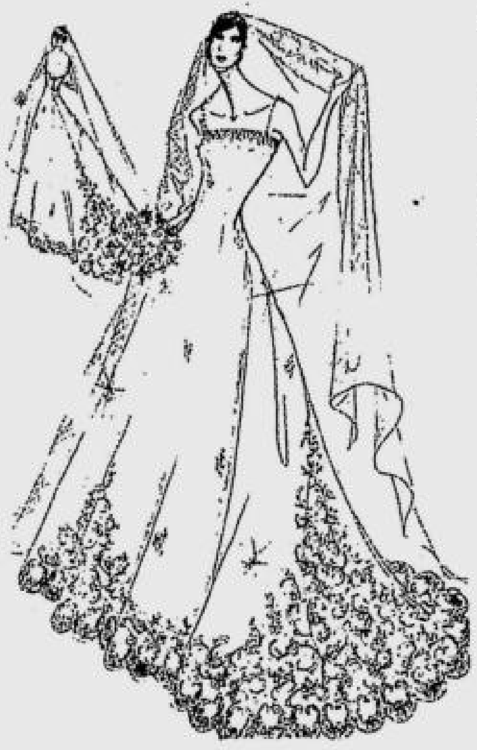
**Kristin de Castro**, daughter of **Crispulo** and **Virginia de Castro**, will exchange vows with **Dung Nguyen Le Van**, son of **Dom** and **Thi Que Le Van**, on Dec. 17 at St. Lucy Parish Church, La Union. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown of ivory silk satin with draped front panel leading to a chapel train, and a seven-meter veil of double-width illusion tulle held by floral-shaped Swarovski crystal pins. Reception will be at Long Island Beach Resort, La Union.

### CORONEL-ABIERA

**Albert P. Coronel**, son of Dr. **Roberto** and **Victoria Coronel**, and **Lynn F. Abiera**, daughter of engineer **Roberto** and **Leticia Abiera**, will tie the knot on Dec. 17. Both are from California, USA. The ceremony will be held at the St. James Parish in Ayala Alabang Village. Reception will follow at the Bellevue Manila, Filinvest Corporate City.

### ESCARCHA-MANGAHAS

**Adrian Figueras Escarcha**, son of **José** and **Salvacion Escarcha**, will marry **Ethel Lorraine Simangan Mangahas**, daughter of **Remigio** and **Lerma Mangahas**, at 9 a.m, Dec. 17, at St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, QC. Reception follows at AFPCOC main restaurant.

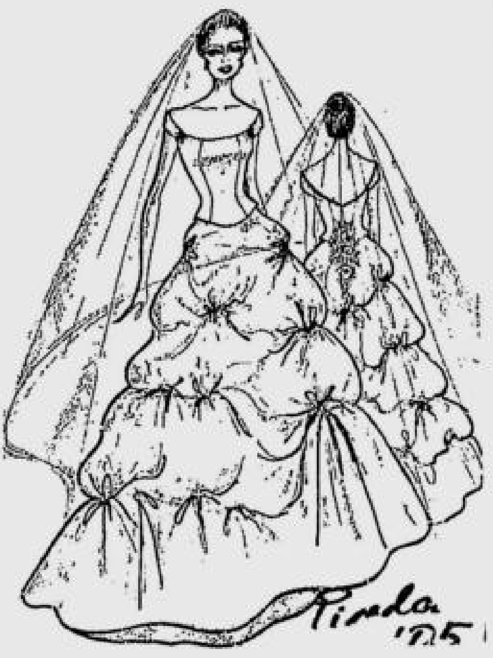


### TRIAS-PORMENTILLA

Dr. **Genalin A. Pormentilla**, daughter of **Ruben** and **Susan Azucena Pormentilla**, will marry **Ivan Trias**, son of engineer **Emmanuel** and **Guia Ruiz Trias**, on Dec. 17 at Santuario de San Antonio, Makati. Reception will be at the Rigodon Ballroom of The Peninsula Manila. **Letlet Veloso** designed the bride's gown while **Randy Ortiz** designed the groom's suit.

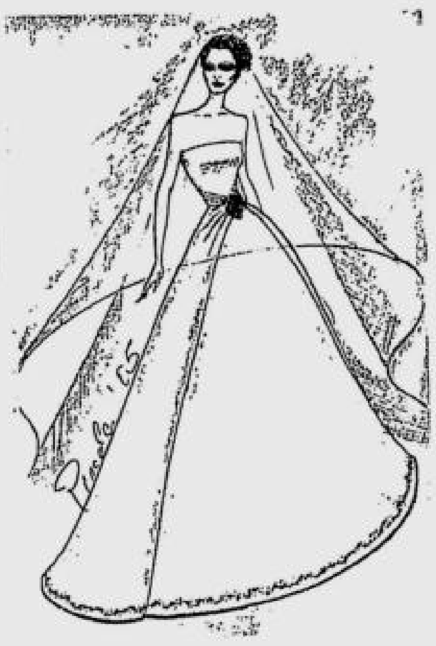
### ROBLES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**Ruperto** and **Agueda Larcia-Robles** will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on Dec. 26 with a Thanksgiving Mass and renewal of vows at St. Joseph Chapel in Ibabao, Cuenca; Batangas. They will be joined by their children, children-in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends. Reception will be held at their residence in Ibabao, Cuenca, Batangas.



### GASCON-ESCIO

**Malou Escio**, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Asuncion Escio**, will marry **Jeffry Gascon**, son of **Domingo** and **Gregoria Gascon**, on Dec. 19, at the Chapel of the Transfiguration, Batangas. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown of ivory silk taffeta with an off-shoulder corset bodice and ruched skirt with rhinestones, faux pearls and iridescent pailletes. Reception will be at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay.



### REPIZO-CARAIG

**Lhanie Caraig**, daughter of **Hilarion** and **Lolita Caraig**, will marry **Ryan Repizo**, son of **Ramon** and **Teresita Repizo**, on Dec. 18 at the Basilica of San Sebastian.

Reception follows at Le Salon Ballroom, Malate, Manila.

**Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown in ivory bridal satin. It features a strapless bodice with draped waist embellished with Swarovski crystals.

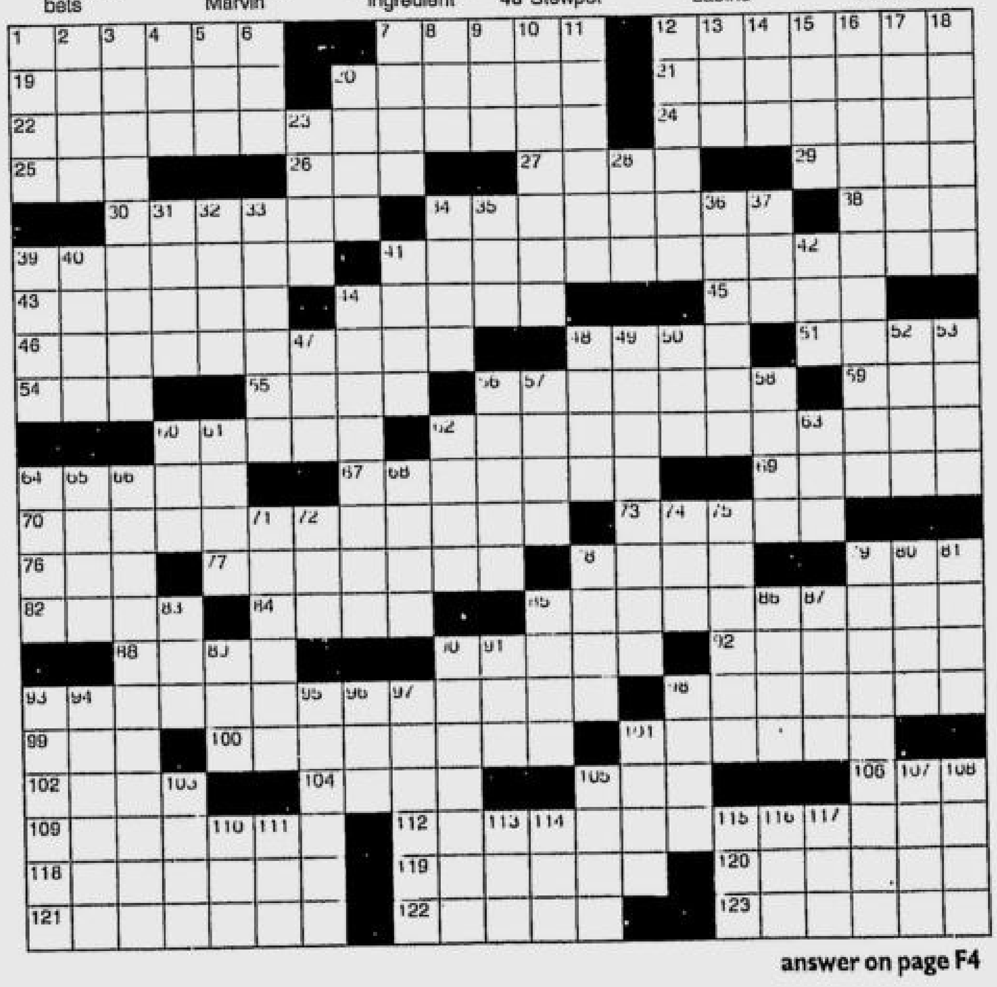
## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

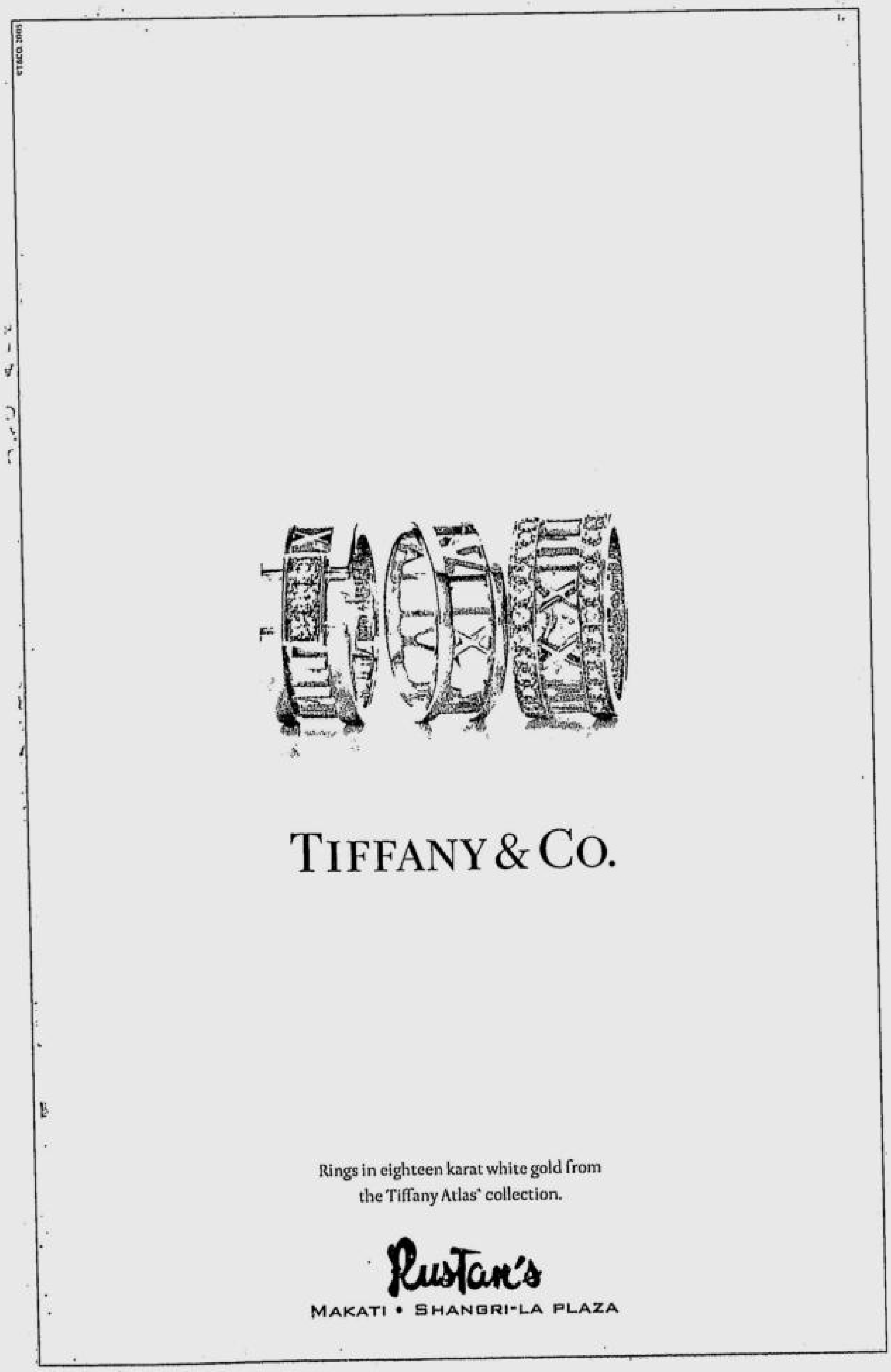
### SPAN

**ACROSS**
1 Rise
7 San Antonio landmark
12 Where to buy a firearm
19 Luau dress
20 Sandpiper's cousin
21 Deviation from the norm
22 Take the wrong way
24 Follow-up, in journalism
25 Mel of the diamond
26 "— -hoo!" (attention-getter)
27 A dog wags it
29 High-tech service available at a "hot spot"
30 Directives
34 Papeete resident
38 Eng. course
39 Lettuce variety
41 Not hiding one's feelings
43 Uncapped
44 Bird of the pheasant family
45 Pre-Easter period
46 Machine that registers bets
48 Stare at
51 Diplomat's skill
54 Raised trains
55 Distinctive times
56 Gin mills
59 Sock part
60 Made major changes in
62 Sacred state
64 "What a pity!"
67 Used tire
69 Taxpayer's dread
70 Ardent
73 Glances
76 Powerful card
77 Short dozes
78 Snobbery
79 German exclamation
82 Snorkeling spot
84 Notes to follow sol
85 Cold
88 Petty or Loughlin
90 "... woman who lived in —"
92 Showered
93 Jam session activity
98 Title incorrectly
99 See 50-Down
100 "A Chorus Line" composer Marvin
101 Capital of Dominica
102 Q.E.D. part
104 Red wine
105 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
106 Holy Fr. woman
109 Rogers' dance partner
112 Their abbreviations appear in 22, 41, 46, 62, 70, 85, and 93-Across
118 Small pickle
119 Muscular dogs
120 Sedative drug
121 Section of London
122 Cafe cards
123 Hid in the hand

**DOWN**
1 BBs and slugs, e.g.
2 Outfit
3 Clientele
4 Ostrich relative
5 Habit wearer
6 Flop
7 In addition
8 Land parcel
9 Gardner of "Mogambo"
10 Cough drop ingredient
11 Make a minister
12 Like 1890s streets
13 Lateral lead-in
14 Signal "yes"
15 Eurasian diving duck
16 Made fit, as for functioning in society
17 King of Norway, 1380-87
18 Mineral resembling gold
20 Big-leaguers
23 Bronte's Jane
28 "— a boy!"
31 Punjabi princess
32 Per — (by the day)
33 Invested (with)
34 Greenish blue
35 Parisian pal
36 Actress Dahl
37 Scottish "no"
39 Lanai, e.g.
40 Milky gem
41 Club costs
42 Leveling stuff
44 Moon or horoscope division
47 More than bi-
48 Stewpot
49 Enjoyment of material comforts and luxuries
50 With 99-Across, desirable for dieters
52 "— fan tutte" (Mozart opera)
53 Exam
56 Hindu dresses
57 Sir Guinness
58 Mt. Rushmore loc.
60 Fan's shout
61 Part of NEA: Abbr.
62 Web address starter
63 Fraternity letters
64 Scorch
65 Erstwhile
66 Knight wear?
68 Mr. Morales
71 Pavlov's dogs produced it
72 Give — try
74 NHLer Bobby
75 Husband of Isis
78 Al- —
79 To a sickening degree
80 Pitcher Labine
81 Jekyll's alter ego
83 In honor of
85 "This is bad"
86 Relaxation
87 1492 ship
89 Former South Korean president — Tae Woo
90 Being risked
91 [Not a typo]
93 Frigid period
94 Mason of movies
95 Be imminent
96 — -mo
97 Current-reducing auto part
98 Castle surrounder
101 Arena arbiters
103 Piquant
105 Vamps' scarfs
107 Head, to Henri
108 Stretched (out)
110 Tina's ex
111 TV's — Tin Tin
113 Yang's other half
114 R-V hookup
115 Quick flight
116 It banned DDT
117 Baseball's Cordero



answer on page F4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# Pregnant and alone

**EMILY'S POST**

*Emily A. Marcelo*

DEAR EMILY,

I had a boyfriend who also had a common-law wife. They'd lived together for more than 10 years but never had any kids.

A few months ago, I found out I was two months pregnant and told him about it. I could tell he was happy and worried at the same time.

A few weeks later, he stopped seeing or calling me. I was naturally devastated, but soon got over it.

I am now six months pregnant and still haven't heard from him. I am doing okay and have already accepted the situation. I know I can raise my baby by myself.

But people keep telling me to file for child support and tell his parents and even his partner about his child. Even the priest, who heard my confession, said I shouldn't let him get away with what he did.

Honestly, I still love him but I don't want to go around telling his family he got me pregnant. I haven't even met them!

Should I listen to other people or decide for myself? I am also concerned about what information about the father to give for my baby's birth certificate.

Is it okay not to give any details? What would be the repercussions? What would be the wisest thing to do or say when my now ex-boyfriend suddenly shows up or calls?

I know my life's pretty complicated. There are too many things going through my mind.

—KATERINA

Ain't it just so? Your boyfriend and his ilk give love a black eye!

Of course your relatives and friends mean well and only have your best interest in mind. But they were not with you when you went to bed with this guy. Ergo, I suggest you don't bring them inside your head and let them influence you as you make your decision about your next course of action.

Let them talk and talk till they all grow feathers. Allow them all their 15 minutes of pain. Including this priest. But after you've heard them all, let it only be you who should carve your decision in stone, or put your head in the noose.

I suggest you leave his family and common-law wife alone. They had nothing to do with your pregnancy and shouldn't be dragged into this mire.

We all have crosses to bear and they shouldn't even be made to touch this cross you carry. The less people you involve, the easier it will be for you to move on.

In the long run and in the event that they hear about you, they might even respect you, if only from a distance, for having the breeding and class not to create a scandal.

As for this creep—after he left you with nary a word considering your very vulnerable condition—how can there be any doubt in your mind about what you have to do next? You're alone and you're free to do whatever you want to do with your life and this baby's. Don't you know that the other definition of freedom is "when there's nothing more to lose?"

He had his chance to lay claim to something he never accomplished with his partner of 10 years. He could have feathered a nest for you to make your fall a bit pleasant—or made other plans, not just disappear like a bubble! That is cowardly, irresponsible, insensitive. It makes one feel like puking.

As to what to put in the child's birth certificate, I suggest you consult a lawyer. Under the Family Code, an illegitimate child has certain rights. It is best to consult an expert to protect these rights. Since your child won't be able to carry the father's name anyway, why acknowledge him in the first place?

If you are forced to write a name, put Brad Pitt! Seriously, consider it an in vitro birth if you want to escape the hassles. The less connections to this creep of a boyfriend of yours, the better. When the baby grows up handsome, rich and famous, let his no-good father salivate and remain unacknowledged.

As to what wise thing you'll say to this guy when he shows up? Tell him to go jump and shake hands with the devil!

*(E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.)*

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# The beloved 'Lupita' of the Mexicans

**PURELY PERSONAL**

*Josephine Darang*

DEC. 12 IS THE FEAST DAY OF Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mexicans lovingly call her "Lupita," a derivative of "Lupe," nickname for Guadalupe.

Churches in both the United States and the Philippines will celebrate her feast tomorrow, the day when the icon of the Blessed Virgin appeared on the *tilma* (a rough cloth Indian peasants wore around their necks) of Juan Diego.

Vidal Aguas, who works and lives in Los Angeles, said the Philippine flag was among those on the *tilma* of Our Lady at the altar of the basilica in Mexico City.

Vidal said, in an e-mail, "Filipinos should feel protected under the mantle of our Blessed Mother. Did you read the inscription: *'Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Reina de las Americas y las Islas Filipinas?'* Our Lady was consecrated by Pope Pius XII as patroness of the Americas and the Philippines."

"Every morning, on my way to work, I pass by the image of Lupita overlooking the freeway, on the opposite side of the outdoor altar by the Los Angeles Cathedral, and say 'good morning' to Nuestra Señora de los Angeles y Guadalupe."

## Our Lady of Zapopan

In October, we visited the Basilica of Our Lady of Zapopan in Jalisco, some seven kilometers from Guadalajara.

We saw a hundred children in uniform putting peach roses to the *Virgen Purisima*.

The tradition is for people to bring the statue of the Virgin from church to church in Guadalajara from June 13 to October 5 every year.

Countless miracles continue to happen through her intercession. People visit her to ask for help. When Adam's Travel organizes a pilgrimage in October 2006, the pilgrims will fly from Los Angeles to Guadalajara in time for her fiesta in October.

For details, call 5211651 or text Ana at 0918-9083676.

## Virgin in Negros

For 200 years, the people of Valladolid, Negros Occidental, have venerated Our Lady of Guadalupe. Forty-five minutes from Bacolod by car, the parish is visited by devotees from other cities and towns of Negros Occidental.

Christine Sarabia-Heras, a fervent devotee of the Virgin, and her friends raised funds for the church by holding a concert featuring the Spirit of '67 band at the Bacolod Convention Center.

Macoy and Dolly Lopez built a small chapel in the courtyard of the church for the Virgin. People now go there to pray.

The fiesta Mass tomorrow is at 9 a.m. and the procession of Marian images is at 5 p.m. starting from the church to the plaza. Afterward, Christmas displays will be lit.

At the Holy Family Parish in Quezon City, a grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe is being constructed in time for her feast day tomorrow.

It's not yet too late to help pay for materials. Please e-mail Rhodora Bohol at rhodora_42@yahoo.com.

The Zone 9 team is composed of Monina Delfinado, Cora Teves and Rhodora Bohol.

## Congress ends

The Diocese of Malolos closed the Eucharistic Congress with four bishops concelebrating at the Regina Carmeli University Chapel in Malolos. They were Archbishop Carmelo Morelos, Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, Bishop Emeritus Cirilo Almario and Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros.

Our Mother of the Eucharist and Grace was brought out for the procession with seminarians carrying her *anda*. The Virgin is enthroned in a chapel in Barangay San Vicente in Santa Maria, Bulacan, where people attend the first Saturday Mass and healing. For details, please text 0917-6227726.

## Our Lady of Salambao

Seventy-three *carrozas* joined the procession last Sunday in Intramuros. The people of Obando brought Our Lady of Salambao, patroness of barren women.

A 6 a.m. Mass tomorrow celebrates the first anniversary of the canonical coronation of the Virgin. The procession that follows is, by tradition, actually the fertility dance for barren women.

For details, call Fr. Danny de los Reyes, parish priest, at 2945527.

## Christmas coffee

Ateneo de Manila University's Pathways to Higher Education is selling special Christmas coffee packages.

For only P150, you get a beautifully designed package that includes a mug and coffee beans fresh from the mountains of Benguet. Add P10 more and they will include a Christmas card exclusively designed by selected artists from Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK).

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Proceeds will cover the tuition and miscellaneous fees of college students from depressed communities of the Philippines.

For orders and inquiries, e-mail evillanueva@ateneo.edu or call 4266001 local 4048 or 4049 and look for Mia or Carissa.

To view a sample of the Christmas packages and learn more about Pathways, visit www.pathwaysphilippines.blogspot.com.

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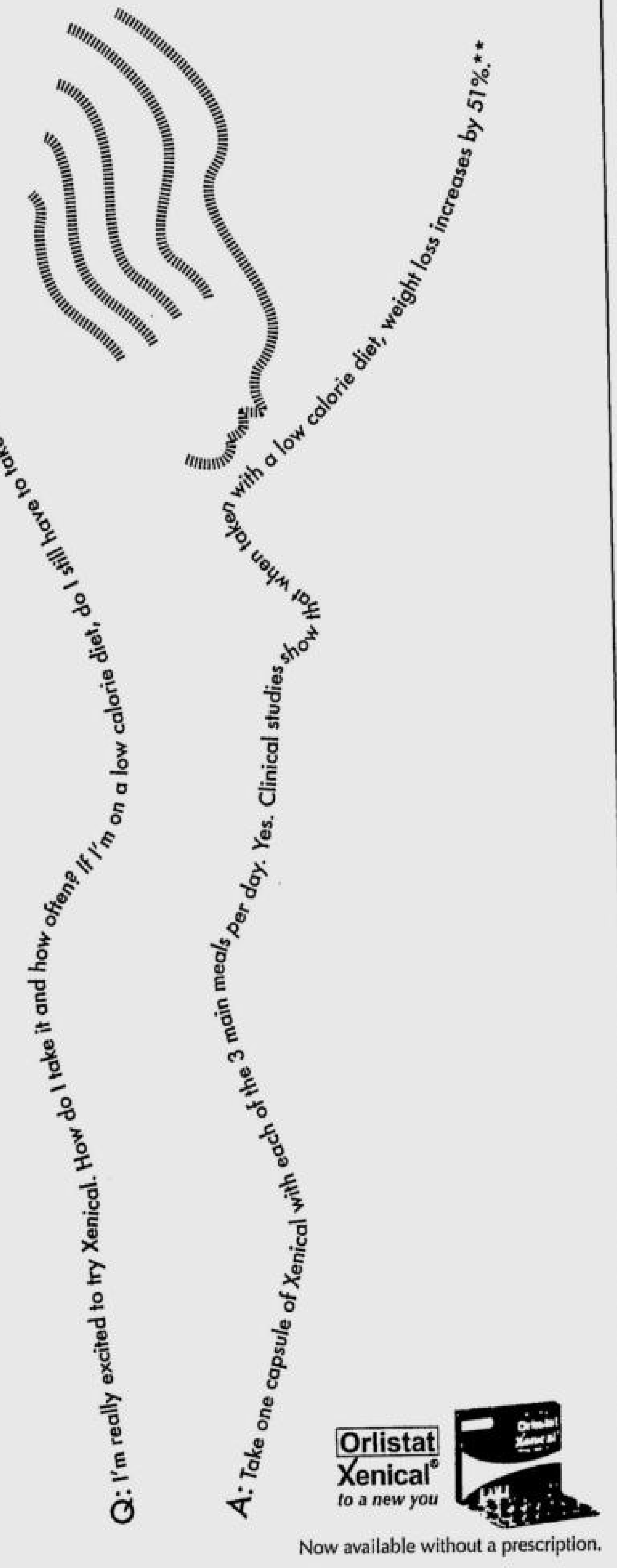
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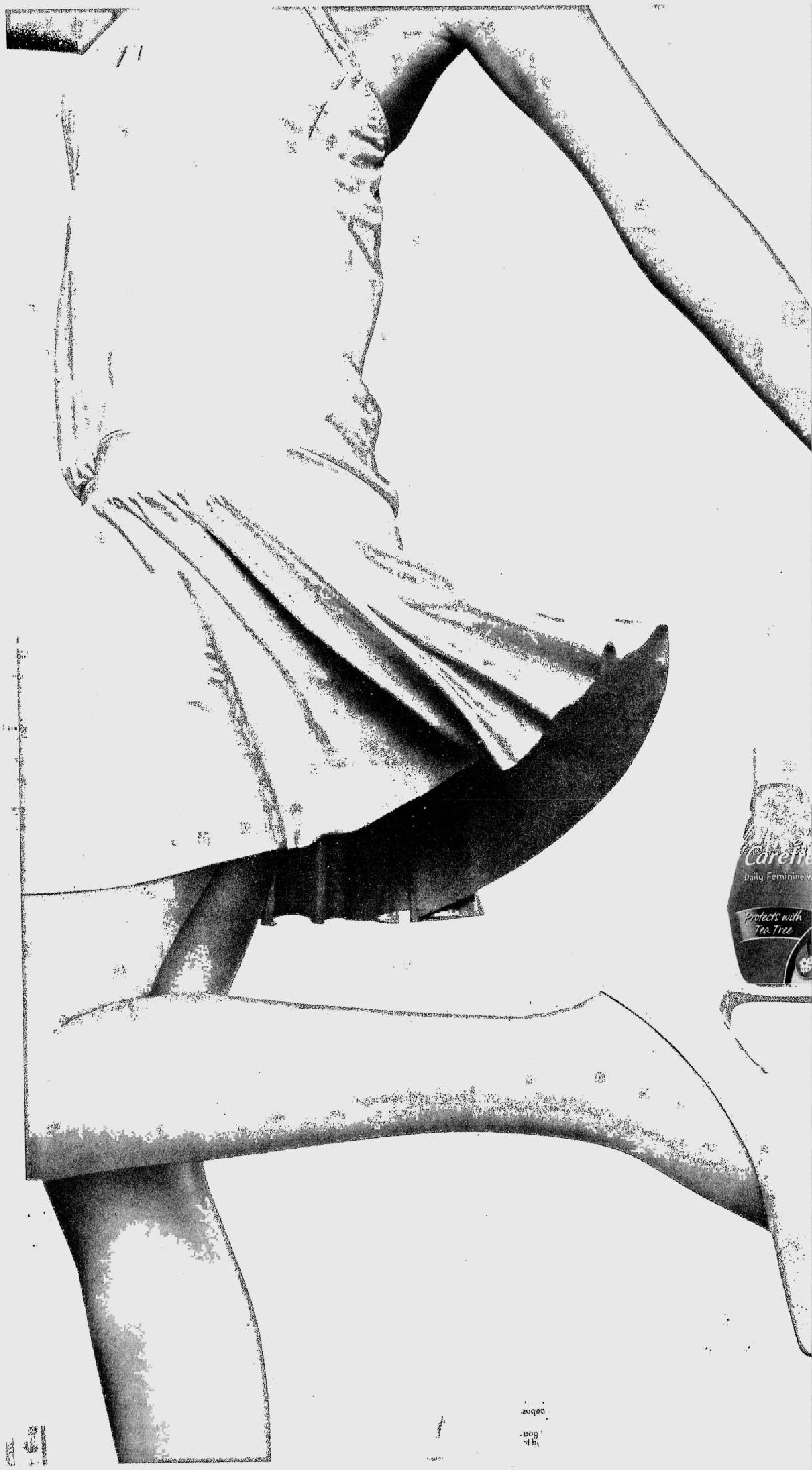

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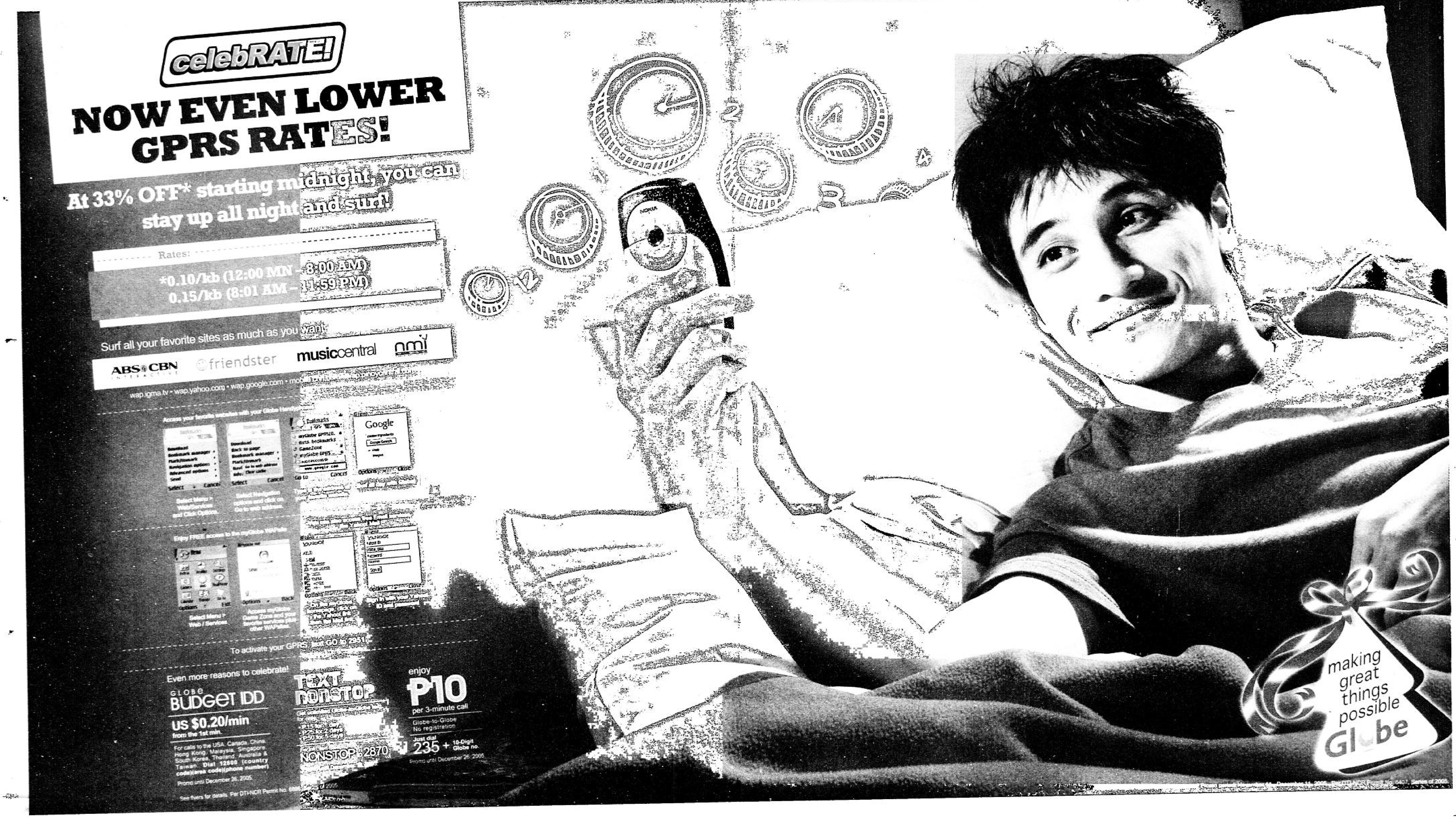

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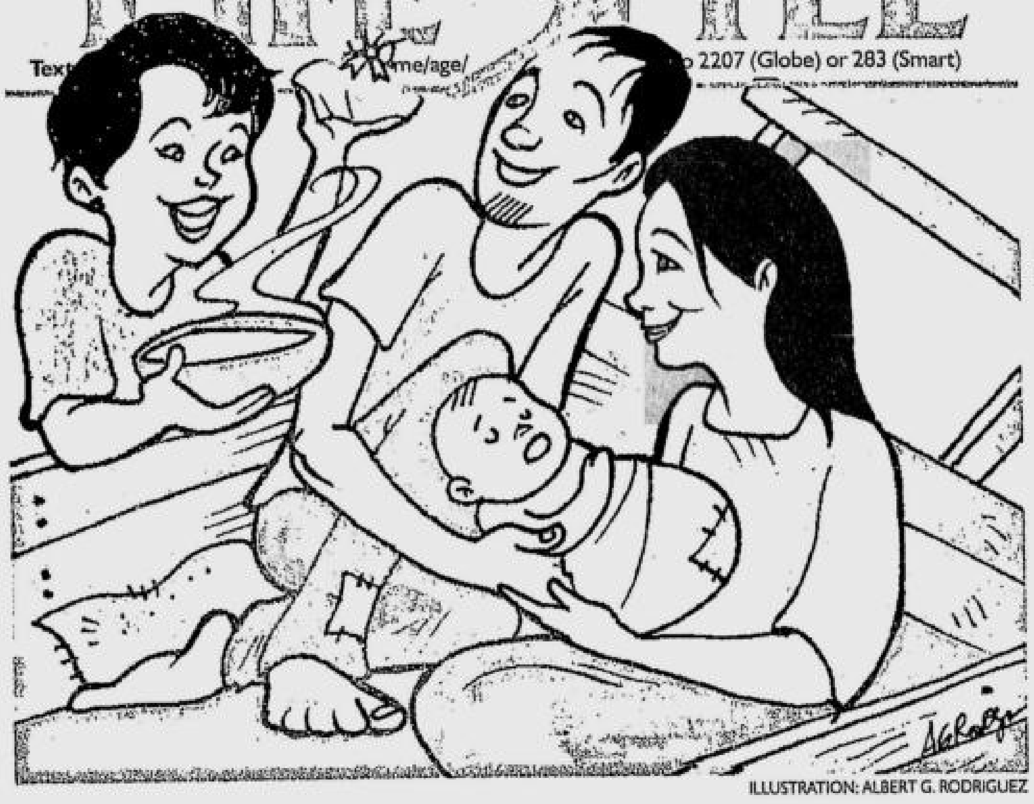


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

# The trouble with charity... is that faith has to go with it

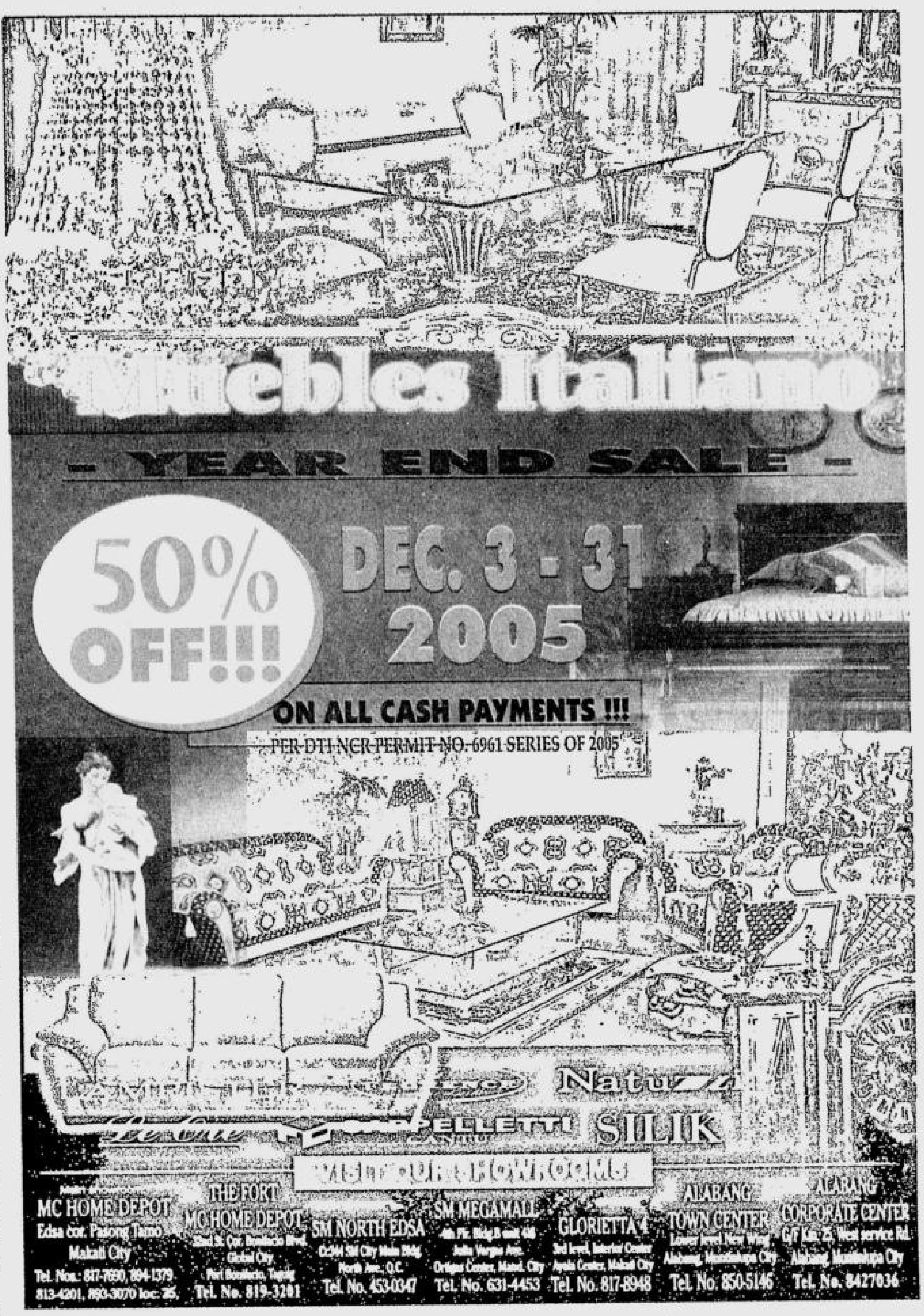
By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

A TOP OF OFFICIAL OF THE Department of Social Welfare and Development, I read in some paper, is admonishing people during this Christmas season not to give alms to street children including carollers. It encourages mendicancy, she said. Soon these children will grow up with no will to work because it is easier to just open their palms. That the DSWD, in fact, has been sheltering precisely such strays and teaching them livelihood skills. And of course she is right.

During my college days I remember not wanting to give alms for the same reasons. I was principled! When a beggar came to my car window, I would say self righteously, stop begging, go to the social welfare where they can help you. But my good friend, a Maryknoll nun (who taught me writing) was incorrigible. When I drove with her around in my car, she'd always dip for change in her purse. I'm hopeless, she'd say, proferring a coin to the palm outside the window, just allow me this.

It was way after my college years that I realized there was no real social welfare to go to. The agency itself was often cash-strapped. I realized that sending beggars for welfare worked only in countries where the government services were all in place and running smoothly. But a Third World country?

THE TROUBLE/ E3



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**DECEMBER 2, FRIDAY**
*Italian Caprice*
UST Wind Orchestra
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*Passage*, Streetscape, 9:30pm

**DECEMBER 3, SATURDAY**
*Voices from the 5th*
Trumpets Musicademy
The 5th, 3:00pm

*Masks and Music*
Manila Chamber Singers
Level 4, Art Plaza, 4:00pm

*Christmas with You*
La Salle Pops Orchestra
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*First Circle*, Streetscape, 9:30pm

**DECEMBER 4, SUNDAY**
*Voices from the 5th*
Trumpets Musicademy
The 5th, 3:00pm

*Noel at the Shang*
Featuring Noel Cabangon
Grand Atrium, 4:00pm

**DECEMBER 9, FRIDAY**
*In Christmas CompanY*
The CompanY
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*8 Track*, Streetscape, 9:30pm

**DECEMBER 10, SATURDAY**
*Italian Serenade*
Montserrat Male Choir
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*U Turn*, Streetscape, 9:30pm

**DECEMBER 11, SUNDAY**
*Voices from the 5th*
Trumpets Musicademy
Grand Atrium, 4:00pm

**DECEMBER 16, FRIDAY**
*Serenata*
Meralco Chorale
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*Jay Cayuca with the Utopian Soundscape Orkestra*
Streetscape, 9:30pm

**DECEMBER 17, SATURDAY**
*Angelic*
The Philippine Children's Choir
from Mandaluyong
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*DJ Boyet Almazan*, Streetscape, 9:30pm

**DECEMBER 18, SUNDAY**
*'Tis the Season to Dance*
Effie Nañas Dancenter
Grand Atrium, 6:00pm

**DECEMBER 19, MONDAY**
*In Laude*
UP Singing Ambassadors
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

**DECEMBER 20, TUESDAY**
*Voci Giovani Cantano*
Ateneo High School Glee Club
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

**DECEMBER 21, WEDNESDAY**
*Un Bel Natale*
University of the East Chorale
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

**DECEMBER 22, THURSDAY**
*Christmas with Jay C*
Featuring Jay Cayuca
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

**DECEMBER 23, FRIDAY**
*Tales of Christmas*
Alitaptap Storytellers' Club
Art Plaza, 4:00pm

*The San Miguel Christmas Music Festival*
San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*The Authority*, Streetscape, 9:30pm

**DECEMBER 24, SATURDAY**
*Il Prete Rosso*
Kithara Quartet
Grand Atrium, 5:00pm

**DECEMBER 26, MONDAY**
*Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*
Novo Concertante
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

**DECEMBER 27, TUESDAY**
*Flute and Guitar, plus Soprano*
Sonny Yangco, Lester Demetillo and Alexis Edralin
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

**DECEMBER 28, WEDNESDAY**
*Canticorum Jubilo*
Chorus Paulinus
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

**DECEMBER 29, THURSDAY**
*Vivaldi and More!*
Global Brass Quintet
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

**DECEMBER 30, FRIDAY**
*La Dolce Vita*
Ateneo Chamber Singers
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*Toy Symphony with Ella Mae Salson*
Streetscape, 9:30pm

**DECEMBER 31, SATURDAY**
*Going Baroque*
Philmusica Woodwind Quintet
Grand Atrium, 5:00pm

**JANUARY 6, FRIDAY**
*Serenata*
Meralco Chorale
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*Silk*, Streetscape, 9:30pm

**JANUARY 7, SATURDAY**
*Guitar Frolic*
Kasilag Guitar Quartet
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

*RJ & Friends*, Streetscape, 9:30pm

**JANUARY 8, SUNDAY**
*Carnival of Venice*
GC4 Brass Choir
Grand Atrium, 7:00pm

Shangri-La Plaza

**BEJEWELED** tree designer Gerry Sunga

**RENOWNED** artist Manuel Baldemor and his column painting

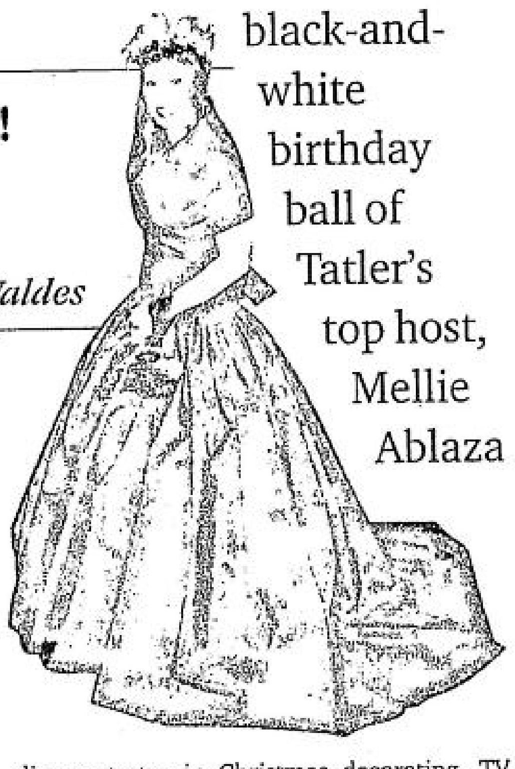
**FIRST** Christmas of baby Athena

**WINTER** décor at the birthday bash of Mellie Ablaza at the NBC Tent

# Black is beautiful, but not for me

**TESSA!**

*Tessa Prieto-Valdes*



Instead of conforming to the dress code, I decided to 'color-violate' the black-and-white birthday ball of Tatler's top host, Mellie Ablaza

THE MOST DIFFICULT ATTIRE FOR ME is that for black-and-white balls because I have lived in colorful outfits over the last decade. I've given up on all plain black gowns! I only wear the most flamboyantly adorned creations of various local designers, especially my mainstay **Rajo Laurel**.

So instead of conforming to the dress code, I decided to "color-violate" the black-and-white birthday ball of Tatler's top host, **Mellie Ablaza**. Only my stunningly bejeweled **Bea Valdes** bag, encrusted with crystals made in countless semi-precious black stones and beads, was in the required black. My dress was a striking emerald gown by Rajo that he made for the launch of Montblanc jewelry at the Rockwell Tent.

## Fine accessories

Though better known for its writing instruments, watches and leather accessories, Montblanc unveiled its finely crafted accessories at a presentation I co-hosted with Tatler editor and birthday boy **Anton San Diego**. After the speech of **Joel Tantoco**, Rustan's marketing veep, an elegant fashion show followed, displaying Montblanc Precious Accessories for Women to a most intimate crowd.

As it was the start of the busy holiday season, I was triple-booked that evening and had to rush to Hotel InterContinental for its Christmas Tree Exhibit. I actually created a tree using my baby **Athena** as the central theme. Since it is her first Christmas, I thought of making it totally memorable for her by adorning my tree with all her close-up photos, expertly taken at Picture Company. I designed lightweight, mosaic hanging frames and had these made by my bazaar supplier, **Riley Chaves** of Vitocruz Gifts and Crafts (tel. 0917-8431678).

Trying to fit in all the socials that evening, I sent my daughters ahead to check on my tree. They ended up being promoted as guests of honor and cutting the ribbon together with INQUIRER's **Bambi Harper**. Since megastar **Sharon Cuneta's** little **Frankie** was a no-show, my almost-8-year-old **Annika** happily obliged InterCon's PR, Jenny Peña.

Arriving extremely late, I caught two artists talking with Jenny. One was master painter **Manuel Baldemor**, who uniquely covered a column with four panels of his colorful artworks depicting Filipino Christmas themes like Misa de Gallo. The other was haute jewelry designer **Gerry Sunga**, who made a dramatic, black-feathered tree adorned with antique Santo Niño faces and Swarovski crystals.

This must-see exhibit of 10 delightful Christmas trees will welcome guests at the hotel lobby until January.

**TWEETY** De Leon-Gonzales with husband Mon

## Décor ideas

For more holiday décor ideas, Alabang Town Center has a two-week "Living and Dining Room" exhibit until Dec. 18 at the Home Zone.

"Home for the Holidays" is a showcase of fabulous lifestyle setups by four ladies with diverse tastes in Christmas decorating. TV host-entrepreneur **Amanda Griffin**, jewelry designer **Tweety de Leon-Gonzales**, Lancôme artist **Abbygale Arenas-De Leon** and *moi* are the guest designers doing our impressions on holiday dressing up for the home.

For shopaholics like myself, Alabang Town Center is not a far destination to find interesting home accessories. Rushing from one event to another, I quickly passed by Jo-Liza Arts & Antiques and Store One to check out their items. I was particularly interested in the gigantic *capiz* light fixture Store One was selling. The store has cleverly created mega-size versions of the classic *capiz* balls.

## Magical time

The Yuletide season is truly a magical time for kids. When asked by L'Oreal PR **Leica Carpo** about how to feel young, I told her that being around my kids helps me keep that glow. But I also added that their new line of L'Oreal Revitalift White works wonders, especially for wrinkles and "loss-of-firmness" skin.

Now that I am starting to play golf again, I surely can use Revitalift, a powerful, anti-wrinkle, anti-brown spots day cream, to enhance my aging complexion.

Youth might have been a stage I was in seemingly centuries ago, but feeling youthful will always be part of me. Somehow, everyone around me is getting younger.

At the opening of Tarte Tatin, the main guests were kids! T-T features the cutest baby to toddler clothes designed by stylish entrepreneur and first-time mom **Mandy Santos**. Her flattering baby clothes, at Rustan's Makati and very soon in Shangri-La Mall, are the most fashionable things to wear today.

Baby Athena and her sister, Annika, will soon be wearing layered, animal-print skirts and funky outfits by Tarte Tatin.

The pretty little girls were given drawings to color and bar cookies with the Tarte Tatin logo to eat. Cute girls doing graceful, Latin dance numbers also entertained everyone. After watching them, I vowed to get back into my Flamenco shoes and head straight to sexy **Ginajane Grey's** classes.

## World-class

From that young affair, I attended a concert where the musicians were all ranging from 11-22 years old. Called the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band, it was literally a youthful version of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. At the band's "CD Camp 7" launch, the PYSB performed a brilliant show with soprano **Rachelle Gerodias** and pregnant, world-class artist **Lea Salonga**.

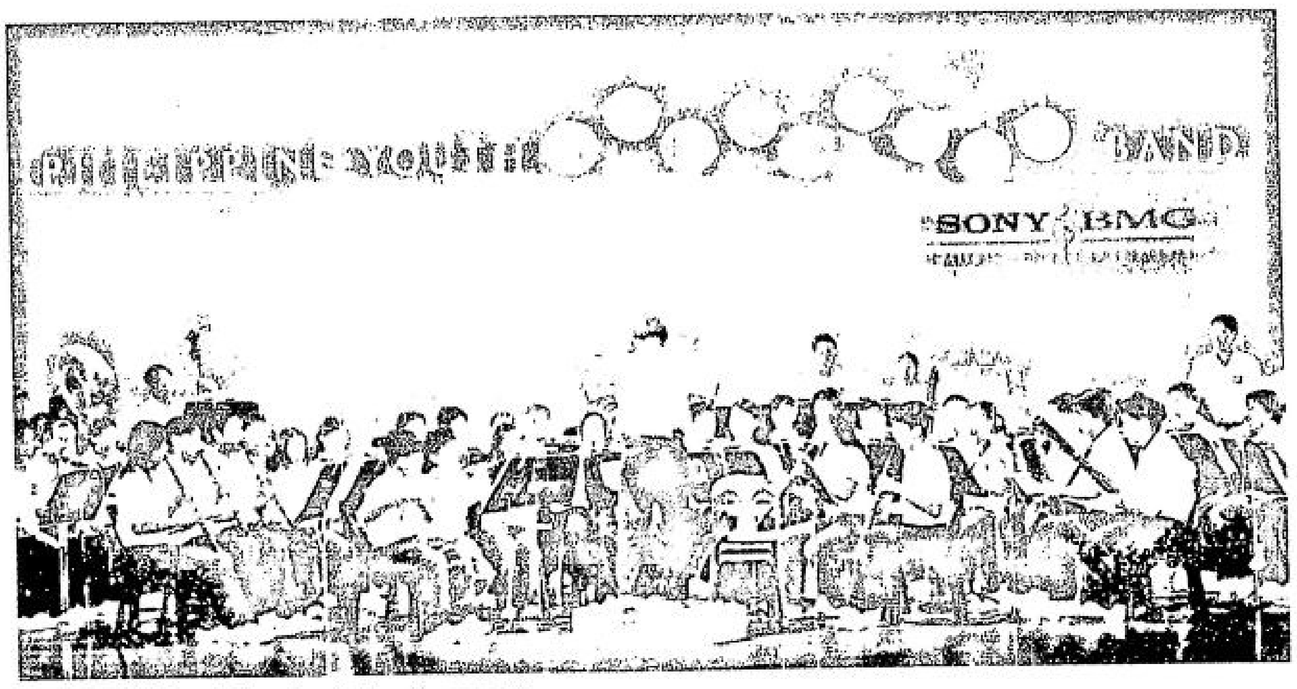
It was such a delight to hear Rachelle sing "Sa Kabukiran," rendering bird-like, melodious high tones throughout the song. And if you closed your eyes, you wouldn't have thought the orchestra was composed of kids. These dedicated, skilled musicians train weekly and also go to a month-long Youth Summer Music Camp. Talk about dedication!

A diverse range of generous benefactors, from retail giants like Rustan's and Bench to mega corporations like Ayala Land and Wyeth, make it possible for music to be part of these kids' lives.

Music is truly universal and has uplifted the lives of these prodigiously gifted children. E-mail youngmusiciansdo@yahoo.com to help in spreading the sound of music to all.

The PYSB's new CD is a great gift for the hard-to-please friend. It'll be a perfect Christmas gift to go with my husband Dennis' new iPod!

*E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph*



**PHILIPPINE** Youth Symphonic Band in concert

**PREGNANT** and wonderful Lea Salonga with the PYSB

**SOPRANO** Rachelle Gerodias

**CHRISTMAS** Tree Exhibit guests of honor: InterCon's Carmela Bocanegra, Bambi Harper carrying Athena Valdes, Annika Valdes and PR Jenny Peña

**TATLER'S** top hosts Louie and Mellie Ablaza

**PYSB** music lovers Armida and Leonardo Siguion-Reyna

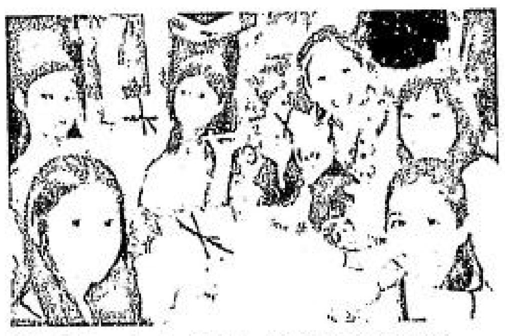
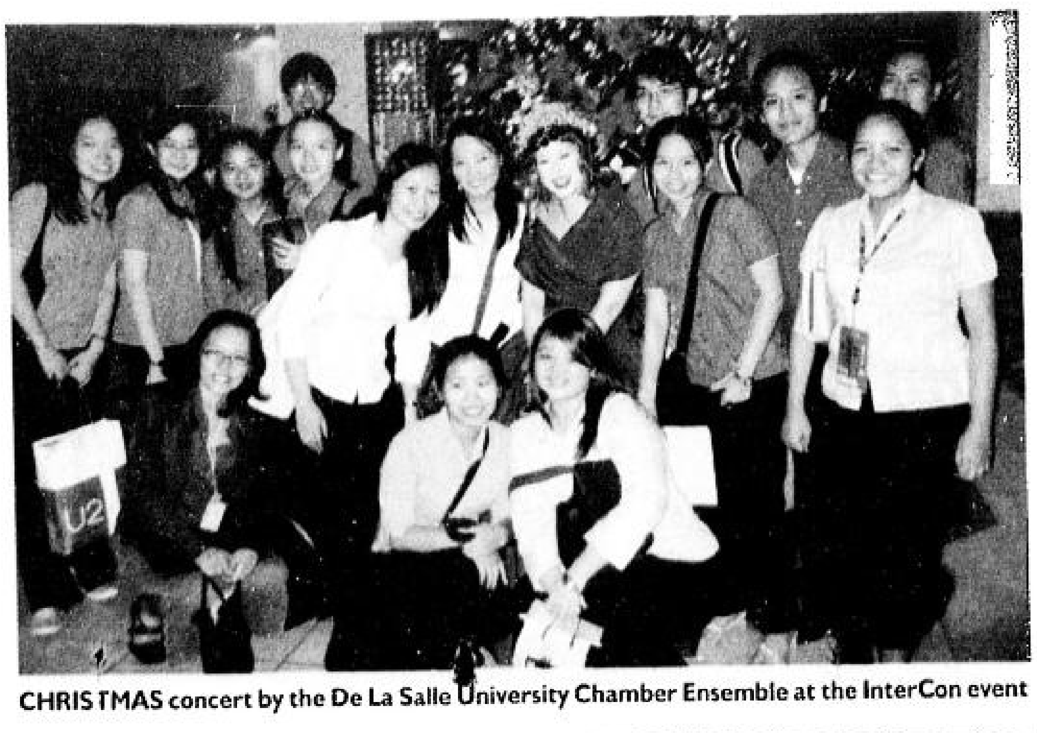


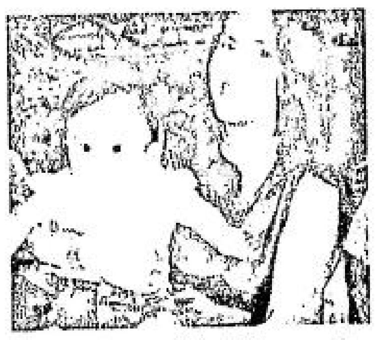
**IMAGE** models of Tarte Tatin Gabbie and Alex Anonas and Tashi and Sylvia Zobel with Sea Princess and owner Mandy Santos show off their cookie bars.



**CHRISTMAS** concert by the De La Salle University Chamber Ensemble at the InterCon event

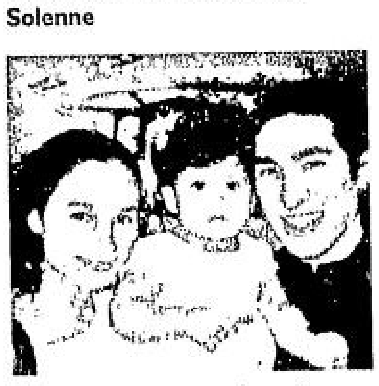
**YOUNG** Musicians Development sponsors Ben Chan, Maja Co and Miguel Pastor

**TARTE** Tatin creator Mandy de la Rama-Santos carries pretty Solenne



**PRETTY** mom Kris Mijares and baby Clara

**ALABANG** Town Center GM Javier Hernandez, Carol Torres-Mills, Sea Princess and Cheska Diaz



**HAPPY** family Georgia and Armand del Rosario with baby Nadia

**LANCÔME** artist Abbygale Arenas-De Leon with cute son Ijah

# The trouble with charity... is that faith has to go with it

I realized that sending beggars for welfare worked only in countries where the government services were all in place and running smoothly

From page E1

Today there are more street children than ever on every street, more little hands knocking at my car window. It is Christmas season. I ache to give them a gift. Should I feel guilty? If I send them to the DSWD office tonight will they get supper? Or at least a cardboard to sleep on? Maybe the kid won't even qualify. He'd be given a number and have to wait. For years. Or forever.

And like my nun friend, I dig feverishly into my bag and give away all my possessions and some. And the driver gets mad because they are all hanging on to the car.

I dislike me for disobeying the DSWD order but when they are not looking, I will, as I always do, hunt for a corner where a pushcart is parked, in which a family is living and a newborn cries. It is the *belen* I am too lazy to put up in my home and I will lay upon its railing my offering.

### Pusong mamon

I know too many selfish people. As I suspect hardcore, too "principled" non-givers, are. (Not the DSWD). They'd rather let the *lanzones* rot in the fruit bowl and the left-over cheesecake grow moldy in the fridge than share them with the help (who only get to eat *tuyo*). *Kasi daw baka mangati lang sila!*

But I know also a lot of *pusong mamon*—Lulu, who goes around with a ton of rubber slippers which she distributes to beggars. Another friend who drives about with a can of MY San biscuits to give to street children. Then there is my *kumpare* who has an on-going soup kitchen and originally cooked that "most nutritious *lugaw*" himself.

Like them I have difficulty giving to institutionalized charities. First, because I don't have enough to make a respectable donation. Will a foundation really be a better manager of my loose change?

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Oh well, maybe beggars aren't such a good idea. Once I found a grisly and absolutely grimy old man snoring on my clean sidewalk beside my newly trimmed hedge. He looked dead tired. He had hauled odds and ends into his decrepit pushcart which was parked just as indecorously beside him.

I was touched. For me he suddenly represented the whole Philippines! I thrashed in my handbag for the biggest Philippine bill I could get hold of, woke him up gently and gave it to him. He looked at me in great bewilderment. It's a gift, I said. He nodded curtly. He put out his black sooty hand and shook mine. We were equals. He may have been a rag picker but he was no beggar.

Now, when you do things like that you are sure to get a scolding from your family. Tomorrow you'll find that pushcart parked there again, they'd say. You want him to build a *barong-barong* on our sidewalk? Of course that's an entire possibility, but with me it's never happened. The old man never parked his pushcart there again. I miss him.

### Distraught

Neither did a teenage boy whom I gave much money to ever come back to "pester" me. I had found him sitting on our sidewalk after the Baseco, QC, fire that razed so many shanties to the ground. He looked so distraught that Señora got down on the driveway to find out what was bothering him. Of course. His house had burned down. He needed to buy powdered milk for his baby sister, he said. An old, old line if I'd ever heard one (why do we automatically distrust teenage boys?) but it didn't seem like a hoax.

So I gave. Sometimes people do need something. You're such a Patsy, said my family. But what could I tell him—now you are a homeless boy, please go to the DSWD? Sometimes you have to take a chance. The boy never came back to ask for another donation. I think by then the DSWD had gotten to his family.

### Lowest of the low

If shaking the hand of a smelly rag picker isn't your trip what may be your thoughts on this? I like giving a couple of bucks to the lowest of the low service workers in public places. Like the girls who mop up and flush the ever-filled toilets of busy malls. What a horrid job! (Why should I give a tip only to the attendant of a fragrant hotel powder room?)

Oh, there's that bus boy pushing a heaping trolley in a food court in Divisoria, piling up plate after used plate, wiping scraps of food and sauces off the tables more than a thousand times. How depressing! When I pass by I give him an encouraging pat and slip a surprise into his pocket to make his day.

Then there are the elevator attendants whom one doesn't tip. They've been going up and down that multi-story hospital in a narrow elevator all day. Do I imagine the guy's lips are turning blue? That he's going to keel over from boredom? If someday I do a painting of Dante's hell I'll put in this guy. So I buy him a *siopao* and he is grinning as he lifts off. Because now he knows he's not a robot.

One of my special targets for a dazzling smile is not that lifestyle photographer but that ill-tempered salesgirl in the shoe section of a big department store. She has been standing in her high heels all day. She is in an endless funk from hunting the sizes everyone needs and never fits into. You want to slap her because she is so curt. Instead you tell her how nice her bracelet or ponytail is. You tell her how tired she must be. Suddenly she finds your shoes! And she is now wearing your dazzling smile! I wish I could take her to *merienda*.

### Big hunks

But my really favorite reaching out is to people who serve us personally.

When my son's house was still being constructed in a corner of our compound, I would ask the carpenters and the masons to sit around me each morning for 20 minutes before starting work. I would teach them to do a body prayer and to meditate with me. You will be surprised how seriously these big hunks take these exercises and how deeply some of them can go into meditation. Maybe better than you and me. Afterwards I serve them hot chocolate and *mamon*.

My son, whose house was being built, laughed at the meditation business and said the laborers tolerated it only because of the snack. Days later my husband pointed out the time that it subtracted from their hours of work. And so, like all good things we become ambivalent about, I dropped it after a while. But what I do know is that the construction was finished one week ahead of deadline. And that's because of the meditation, period.

On Christmas, of course, everyone gives their househelp some spending money over and above their 13th month pay. And I like to give this to our maids and the houseboy-scholar in early December. But that is not the real gift. The real one is letting them off for half a day to spend it all together (leaving us lunchless and service-less). Because I know the younger help are not good shoppers (no experience) and they all like to cling to the cook who has been 30 years with us and is a wise shopper.

It is a hilarious time they have, capped, of course with a Jollibee meal. Just hearing them cackling delightedly over their purchases—T-shirts and jeans and shoes and fake watches —is enough to fill me to overflowing.

It is the season for kindness and bragging and you can also tell the INQUIRER how kind and generous you've been.

P.S. Please buy my nice book "The Last Full Moon: Lessons on My Life." Available at National Bookstore (Makati and Podium), PowerBooks, Fully Booked, Popular, Datelines (Shoe Expo in Cubao).

Secosana: Lavish Vibe

Feminine urban sophistication marks Secosana's Lavish Vibe 2005-2006 to full blast. The collection celebrates the classic, sophisticated and versatility of women's style and individuality. Rich, decadent earth tones such as beige and brown, subtly romantic and flirty pinks, and warm jewel green and red hues add zip to daytime and glitz to evening wardrobes.

Lavish Vibe Collection features delicate shapes and accents such as bows and embellishments for that extravagantly feminine touch. Tote bags with front pockets, dainty handbags and chic shoulder bags were launched this Holiday Season. For women who make the rules, take the lead and dare to be different Secosana will always be their first choice. Available at all leading department stores and Secosana boutiques nationwide.

Visit Secosana Pick of the Season Mall Display at SM Megamall on November 16 to December 15, 2005, SM North Edsa on November 25 to December 26, 2005 and at Super SM Sucat and SM Marilao on December 1 to 31, 2005. And get a chance to win instant Holiday gifts from Secosana.

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Claudine Baretto feeling Secosana's Lavish Vibe Collection: deep color palettes and chic designs.
Photos by: Raymund Isaac
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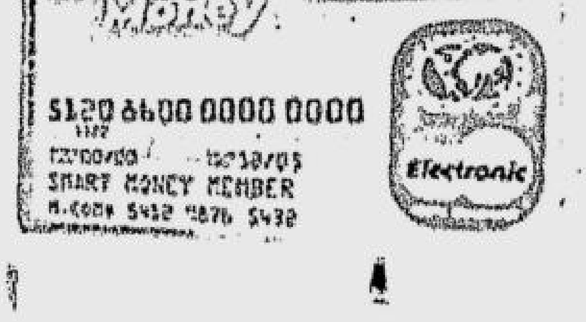

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- Once this step has been completed, you're ready to search for movies and purchase movie tickets using your SMART celfone! For complete instructions on how to purchase SM Movie Mobile Tickets, send **BUY** to **286**.

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**WRAPPING** paper is superfluous with a box like this.

# Wrapped up in the spirit of the season

**By Linda B. Bolido**
**Photos by Rudy Esperas**

BOX IT, BAG IT, WRAP IT. No need to worry anymore that the gift chosen so carefully at a significant cost in time and money is going to lose its impact because the packaging is so blah. At the stationery sections of SM Department Stores, you can find a wide array of packaging materials and accessories to give your precious gift the kind of wrapping you think it richly deserves.

> With all the different packaging materials SM puts at your disposal, you can make your presents even more special

Sturdy hatboxes in all sizes can live on long after the gift has been opened and appreciated, as containers for scarves, lingerie and other stuff that people want saved.

Jelly bags, also in assorted sizes, can morph from gift packs into shopping bags. Small items may be packed in jelly containers shaped like bells, candies, stars and hearts in vibrant colors that may also be useful later as décor or for keeping trinkets and other tiny things.

You can go for the traditional Christmas motifs of Santas, trees, balls, wreaths and candy canes, or choose to be politically correct with recyclable and biodegradable cardboard boxes, *sinamay* wrappers and bows.

Instead of adhesive tape, you can seal the ends of your packages with pastel paper twines or brightly-hued twist ties and top them with dried twigs, artificial flowers or paper cutouts, rather than the usual bows. You may even use colorful balloons to make gifts for children even more fun and exciting.

Only your imagination will limit the lengths you can go to show the recipient of your gift just how special he or she is, not only through the package's content but the packaging itself.

Now if you feel you don't have the kind of imagination to do justice to your special gift even with all the raw materials SM puts at your disposal, don't fret. The stationery sections also carry pre-packed

WRAPPING F2

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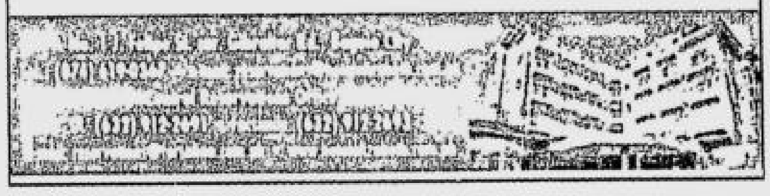

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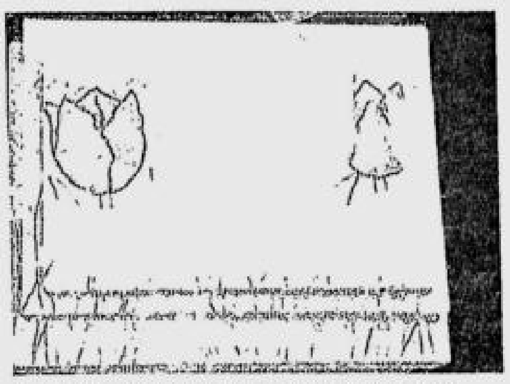
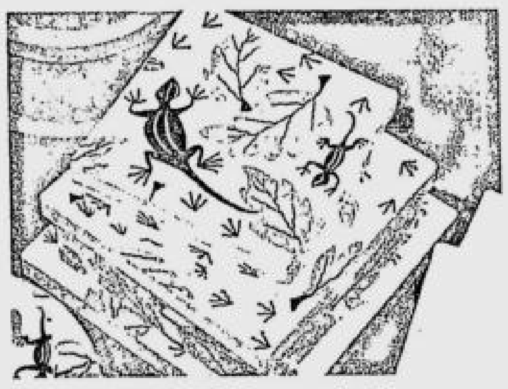
**IN THEIR** gay colors and versatile designs, these boxes are suitable for all gift-giving occasions.



**UNCLUTTERED** lines and good drawing mark Gatbonton's work.

**THIS GUARANTEED** flu-free duck will be welcome in any home.



**NO LIZARD-PHOBIC** can resist these colorful creatures rendered in fall colors.

# Thinking in a box

**Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido**

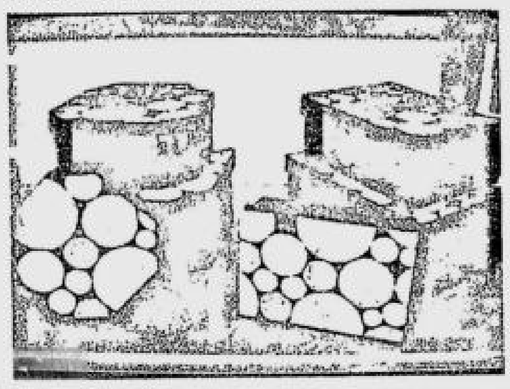
**THROUGH** Susana B. Velasco's Flor-San's Handicraft, Gatbonton's boxes had a rather impressive debut.

JOJO GATBONTON, FORMER magazine art director, has gone into boxing.

No, he is not into prizefighting.

Now working as a freelance designer, what Gatbonton has started doing is design gift boxes, unveiling his first efforts—done in collaboration with exporter Flor-San's Handicraft—in a rather impressive venue, the most recent Manila Fame exhibition of the Center for International Trade, Expositions and Missions.

Gatbonton, son of the late Liborio Gatbonton, better known as Gat, the respected editorial cartoonist of the old Manila Times, rushed (he barely had a week to do them) some eight or ten designs in time for the semiannual trade fair that draws major importers from different parts of the world.



**POLKA** dots (above) for good luck on Chinese New Year's Day and smiling moon and sleepy owl (left) for other occasions

The designs were typically Gatbonton, an occasional painter—clean lines, simple but elegant strokes, and well-delineated images. Done in acrylic, they were, in short, miniature paintings.

Though he had been primarily a magazine layout artist (for Panorama, the Sunday magazine supplement of the Manila Bulletin), Gatbonton had also designed handicraft for exporter friends in the past. He now hopes to devote more time to this field, making his artistry available to those who need new designers (0919-6129678, e-mail jmpgat@yahoo.com).

Samples of his boxes may be seen at Tiendesitas where the Flor-San, owned by Susana B. Velasco and based in Paete, has a stall.

> The designs were typically Gatbonton, an occasional painter—clean lines, simple but elegant strokes, and well-delineated images

# Wrapped up in the spirit of the season

From page F1

wrapping kits with paper, ties or ribbons and accents which you only have to assemble. No need to worry about what should go with what.

But if you feel that even that is way beyond your creative stretch, then go to the stationery section of SM Megamall in Ortigas or in Makati City and let the master wrappers there do their magic.

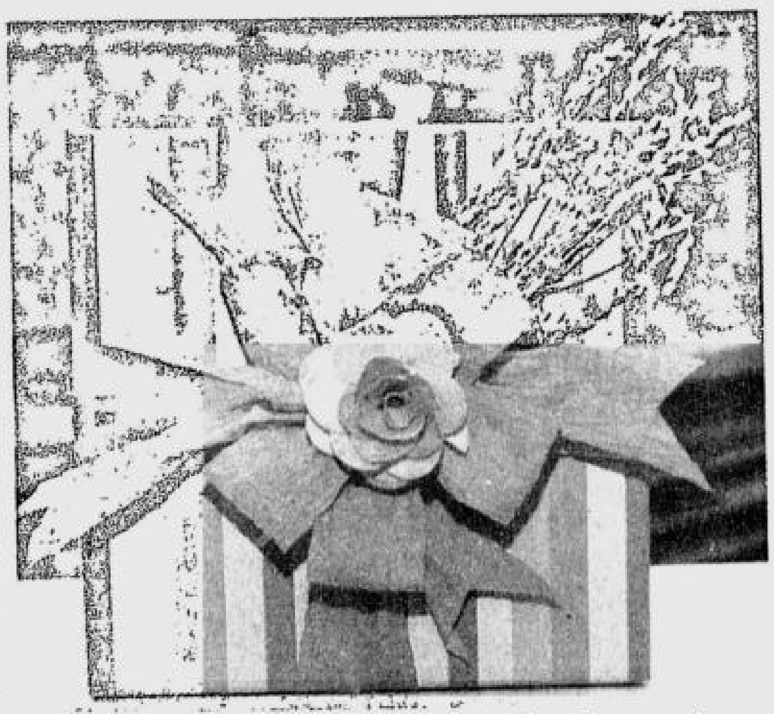
You can either bring your own packaging stuff or let experts like Evelyn Mamolo at SM Makati find the right materials to wrap your gift in the manner that befits its value or the recipient's importance.

Mamolo, who trained with Hallmark, has been doing the job for about two years now and has become quite adept in matching the packaging to the gift, finding just the right mix and match of wrappers, ties and accents and doing the job in the fraction of the time it probably takes you to just pick the paper.

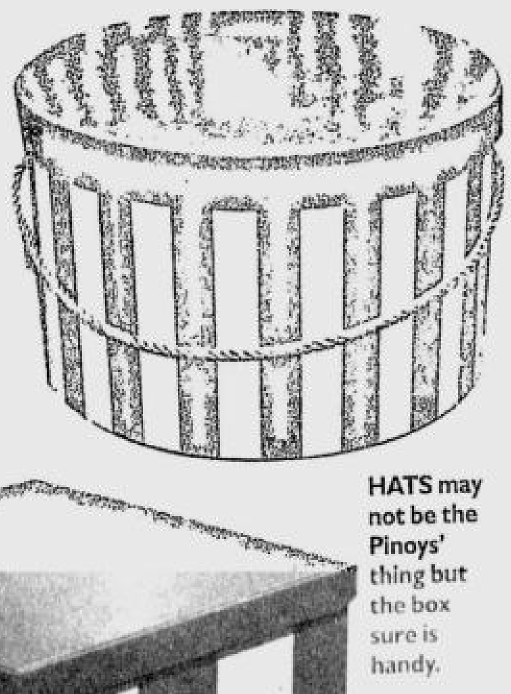
And wrapping services in Ortigas and Makati are not exclusive to SM items. You can lug your gift from wherever you got it and have it packaged in either store. For the service, SM charges P15 for a small package, P25 for medium, and P50 for large. But you have to pay for all the materials used. An orange jelly bag with a butterfly costs a total of P179 while a medium-sized package with balloons, P222.

Mamolo says they usually average 30 jobs a day but, not surprisingly, at this time of year, the rate goes up to 40. Gift wrapping counters usually have two people to do the job, though when demand rises, a few more bodies can be roped in to help.

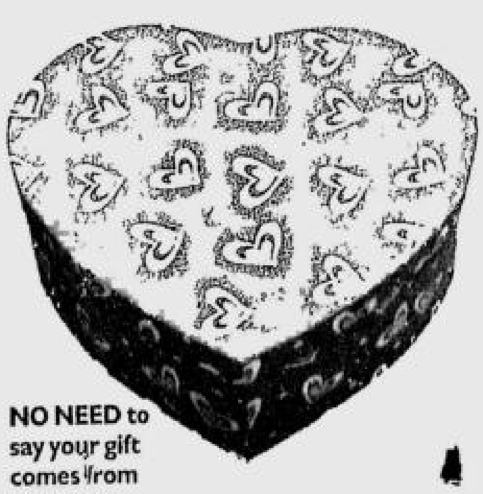
With such expert help available, gift-wrapping should be one load you can take off your shoulder this holiday season.



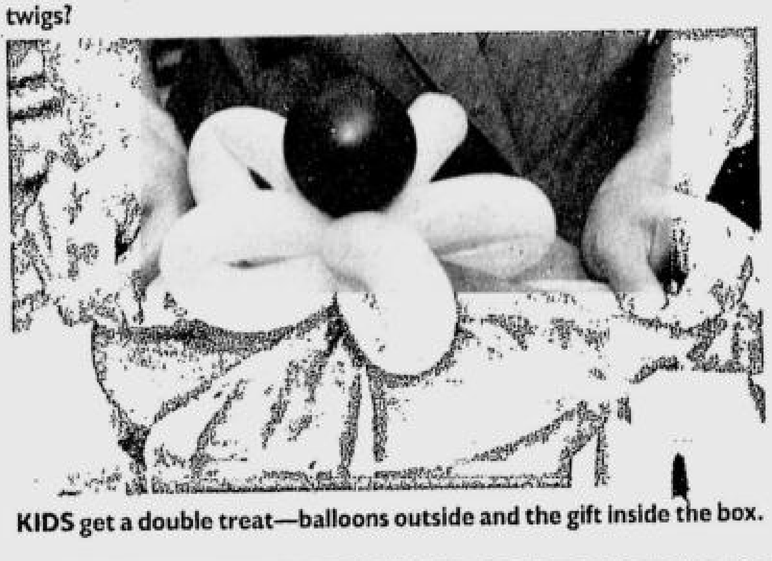
**WHY** limit yourself to bows when you can also have flowers and twigs?



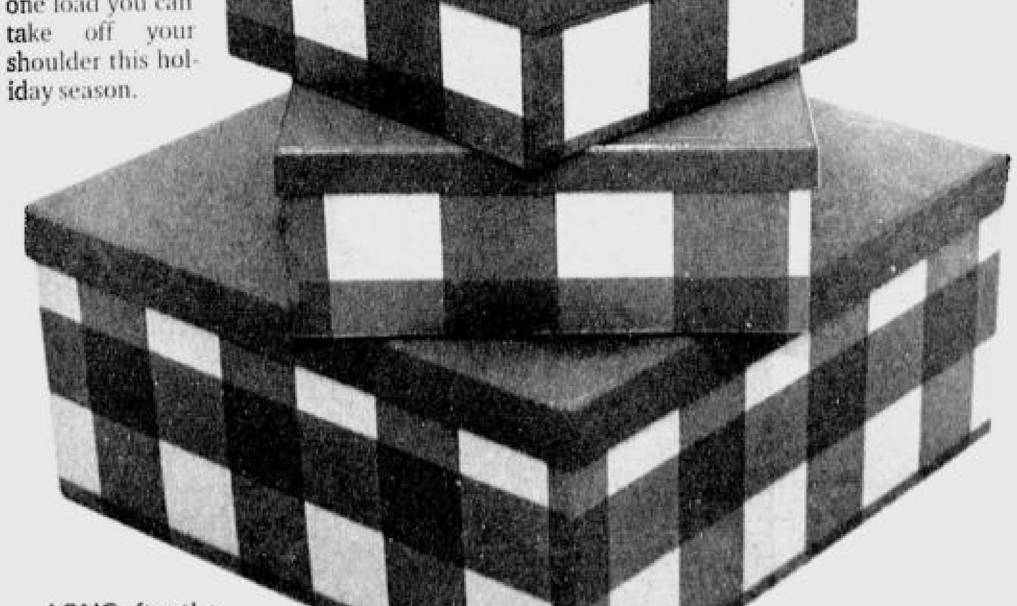
**HATS** may not be the Pinoys' thing but the box sure is handy.



**NO NEED** to say your gift comes from the heart.



**KIDS** get a double treat—balloons outside and the gift inside the box.



**LONG** after the holiday season, these can be containers for odds and ends.

DR. JOHN B. Shields former chair of Radiology at St. Louis University and UST faculty development facilitator, Dr. Herminia Vijungco and Dr. Jose Vijungco

# Pinoy doctor named most outstanding teacher anew

DR. JOSE G. VIJUNGCO HAS BEEN CHOSEN Most Outstanding Teacher for the second time in his two and a half years at St. Louis University (SLU) in Missouri, United States.

Vijungco, who is with the Radiology department of St. Louis University, received the award after getting the highest rating from the teaching evaluation done by transitional interns at Forest Park Hospital, an affiliate of SLU.

Residents, students and interns, now doing their residency at Stanford, Mayo Clinic, Duke and Washington, voted for him as Most Outstanding Teacher.

Sharing his pride in this accomplishment are his wife, Herminia (University of Santo Tomas Medical School '65), and his colleague Dr. John B. Shields, former chair of Radiology at SLU and UST faculty development facilitator.

Vijungco has performed 1,000 peripheral angioplasty, 65 peripheral limb salvage that included thrombolytic therapy and other related procedures in private practice. As a result, he has been certified by the American Board of Radiology and has a certificate for added qualification in Vascular and Interventional Radiology.

He was chair of the Movement for Free Philippines in the early '80s and has been involved with Amnesty International. Putting to good use lessons in perseverance, determination, focus, sacrifice and dedication, he participated in the UST Medical Alumni Convention of the Midwest in Michigan in 1987. The meeting, headed by Drs. Joe and Stella Evangelista, led to the creation of the UST Medical Alumni in America.

## UST benefactor

In 1990, during the convention of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA) in Washington DC, Vijungco launched the UST Medical Alumni Foundation. The foundation and its mission received the blessing of then Father Rector Rolando de la Rosa.

Among its goals was the acquisition of cardiac catheterization equipment for UST, through contributions of US$5,000 in five years, or US$1,000 a year, or $83.33 a month.

Donors who accounted for the first US$20,000 were announced during the UST Convention of the Midwest in 1991 in Chicago.

The 1992 convention in Missouri donated US$10,000 to the UST Hospital as seed money for the purchase of the cardiac catheterization equipment. New officers of the foundation brought $2.5 million to the funds of the UST Medical Alumni Foundation. The money's interest is used to support the UST Hospital's infrastructure projects, its Charity division, and faculty development.

Vijungco is the founder of the APPA Scholarship and a staunch supporter of the UST Faculty Development Program. Some of the beneficiaries of these projects were Dr. Mario Milo (Radiology), Dr. Lerrie Gutierrez (Cardiology) and Dr. Alex Sua (Ophthalmology), all members of the UST Medical School faculty; Dr. Norbert Uy (Cardiology), currently chair of Cardiology at the University of the East; Dr. Beaver Tamesis (Cardiology), now medical director of Merck Philippines and associated with the Philippine General Hospital, Medical City Hospital; Dr. Margarita Cadorna (Anatomy), currently at De la Salle University; Dr. Melco Tan Perez (Cardiology), associated with the Chinese General Hospital; Dr. Rowena Panganiban (Neuroanatomy and Neurology), now practicing at the Mary Mediatrix, Lipa City, Batangas; and Dr. Ariel Lajada (Radiology and Neuroradiology), practicing in Bulacan.

Aside from being the founder of the UST Medical Alumni in America Foundation, Vijungco also served as president of several organizations such as Philippine Medical Association of Greater Saint Louis, UST Medical Alumni of Midwest, UST Medical Alumni in America, APPA, and Movement for Free Philippines.

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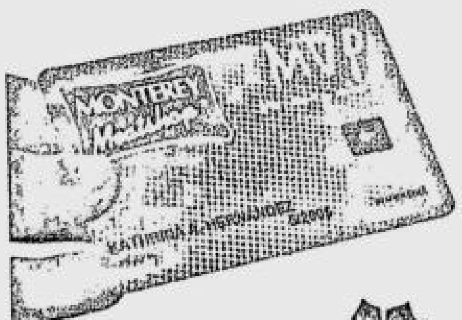

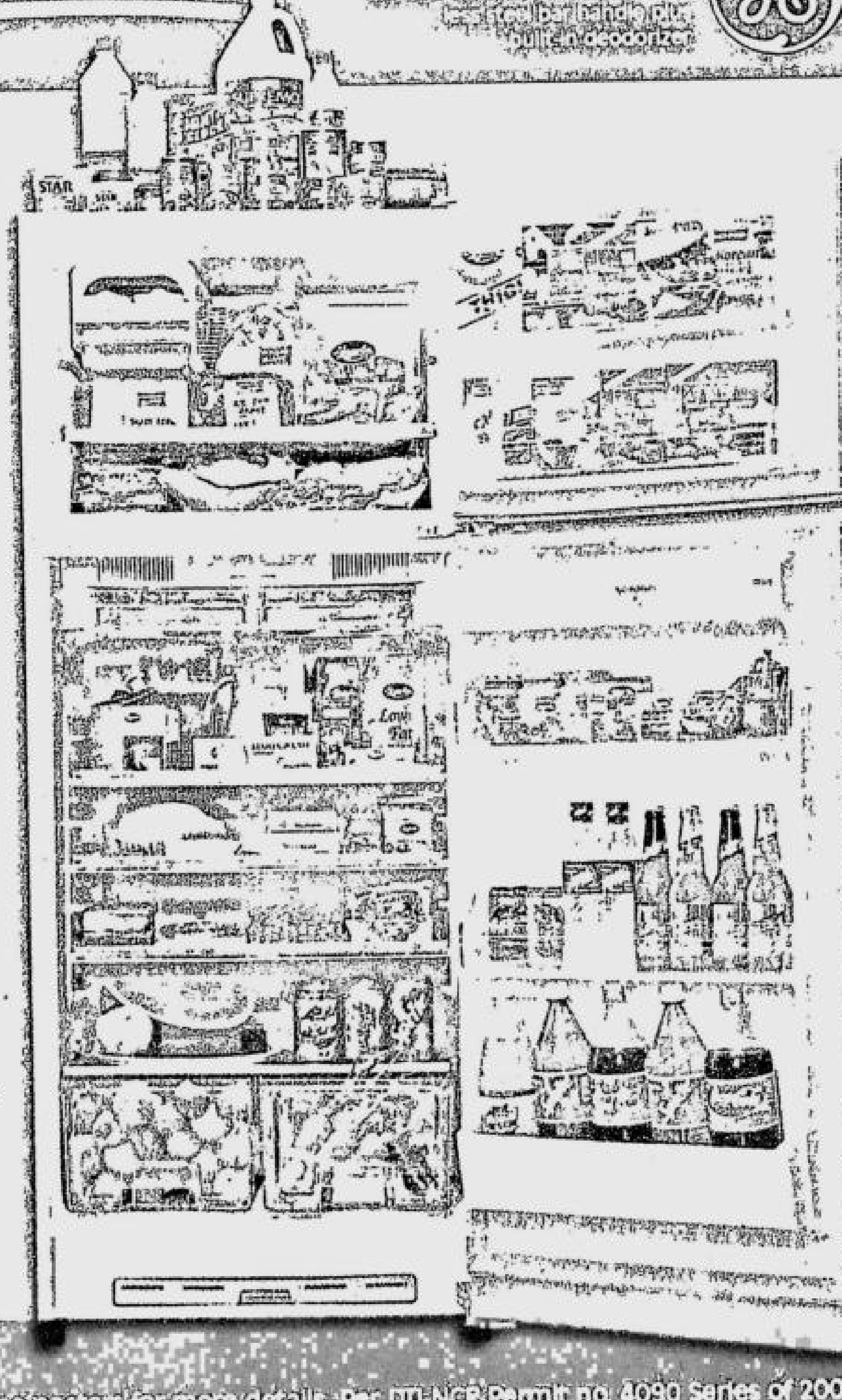

# Music, a magic mike and tourism

IN THE LAST TWO DECADES OR SO, sing-along sound technology made enormous strides from the sometimes teeny and flat musical accompaniment tape recordings to having a virtual orchestra on hand inside a small chip that can play in any key and suit the voice of the singer.

Even the quality of the singer's voice can now be enhanced to such a degree that voices that used to peel off car paint now comes out with surprisingly melodious clarity.

Moreover, as sing-along machines have sounded better they have also become smaller, giving people the advantage of plug-and-play anywhere portability.

In the most recent incarnation of the ubiquitous videoke, Wow Magic Sing has been successful in blending state-of-the-art Korean technology and the distinctive touch of Pinoy culture.

Just as easily as Filipinos can make jokes in the direst of circumstances at the drop of a hat, they can also belt out tunes at a moment's notice. The more difficult part is getting them to stop!

Even as they croon to their favorite songs, OFWs who bring their WOW Magic Sing along with them also become instant ambassadors for Philippine tourism.

Artemio Morales, a seaman who plies the Mediterranean on an oil tanker, actually came home to the Philippines last year with five of his Greek shipmates—including a senior ship officer—who had seen him singing to pictures of Boracay, the Banaue Rice Terraces, the old houses of Vigan and other Philippine tourist spots.

"Everything you've heard about Greeks being difficult to work with seemed so true at first, and they kept giving me a hard time until I got permission to hook up my videoke microphone. At first, they just watched me and after a couple of songs, one of them asked if he could also sing a song. Suddenly, as more of them joined in singing familiar American rock songs, we began becoming the closest of friends—making my stay on the ship a whole lot easier," said Artemio.

After their contract was finished and the ship dry-docked for much-needed maintenance repairs, his shipmates insisted on coming with him to the Philippines.

Morales was only too happy to let them. During their two-month vacation in the country, his shipmates spent nearly all of the money they earned traveling from island to island.

The Filipino's infectious humor and love for music has indeed paved the way for the advent of videoke diplomacy.

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### ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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A trade and tourism fair in Nanning shows the pluses and minuses of the Philippine charm offensive

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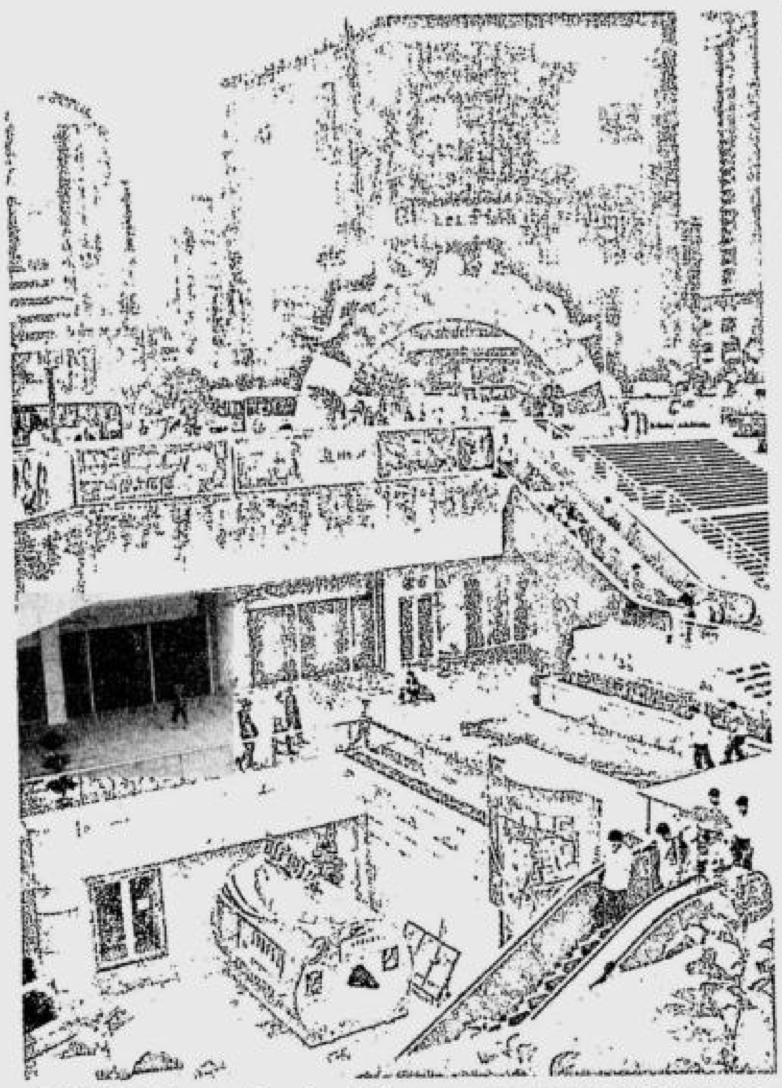
**A WING** of the massive, state-of-the-art expo site in Nanning, Guangxi, China, the venue of the China-Asean Exposition and China-Asean Business and Investment Summit



**AS IN MOST** parts of modern China, new skyscrapers crop up by the day, as if to proclaim its readiness for the world...

# China, here we come

**Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral**

NANNING is an unlikely place for the Philippines to promote tourism, trade and investment, the Chinese city's impressive infrastructure notwithstanding.

For starters, many Filipinos have never heard of this Chinese city located north of Hong Kong, in the province of Guangxi. And likely, many of Nanning's residents have never heard of the Philippines, much less its provincial cities.

Then there's the language barrier.

While many students are enrolled in its universities' English courses, still very few speak English that conducting business in Nanning can be a true test for foreigners.

But each nation, it seems, is only too keen to get a piece of the burgeoning China market.

So, for the second year, the Philippines, through the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Center of International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), participated in the recent 2nd China-Asean Exposition (Caexpo) hosted by Nanning, with the aim of promoting business through tourism not only with China but with the rest of the region.

"We are positive that our exposure in this event will further boost business opportunities through tourism," Tourism Secretary Ace Durano said in a statement.

## Charm city

Participating countries were each made to choose a "charm city" as part of its tourism element, and Cebu was this year's pick.

Products from the Queen City, like her famous dried mangoes and fashion accessories, were the highlight of the RP pavilion in the tourism hall. The semi-circular booth, designed by Citem's Caesar Chiu, veered from tradition and consisted of three undulating white panels featuring a life-like photo of a Philippine beach on one side and Cebu product samples and photos on another. Two plasma TVs showed promotional videos. At the core of the booth were sails in the colors of the Philippine flag.

The RP pavilion was modest and bare next to its immediate neighbor's, Brunei Darus-

CHINA G2

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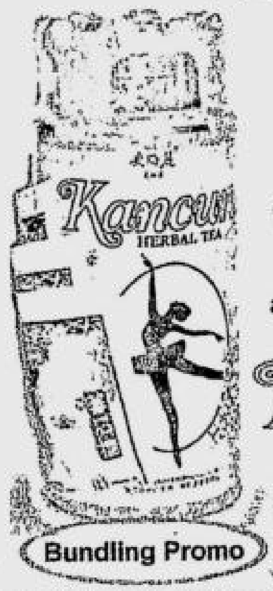
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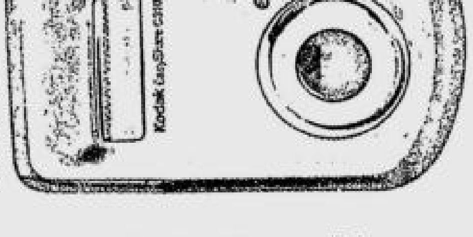

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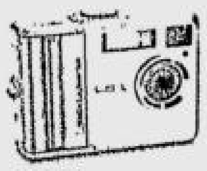

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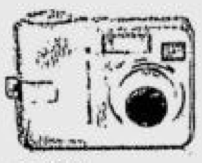

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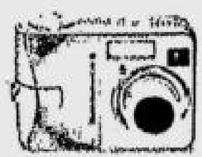

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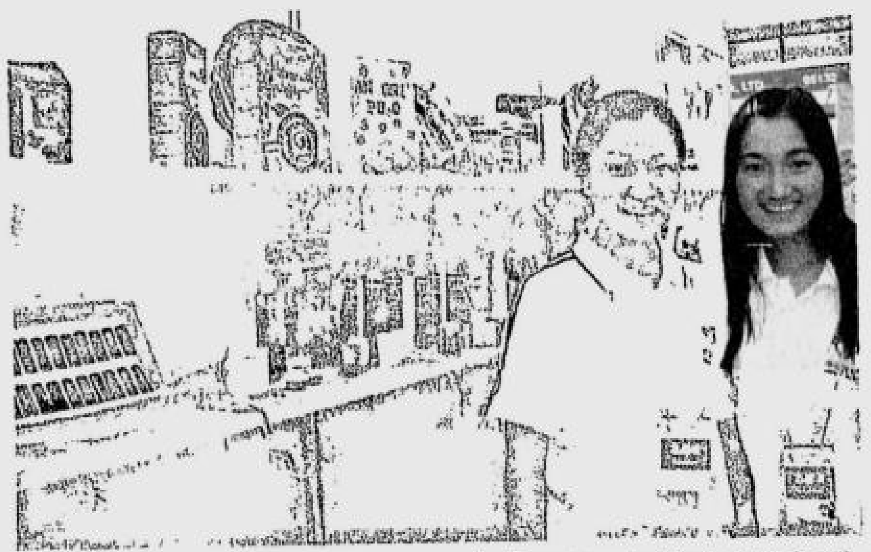
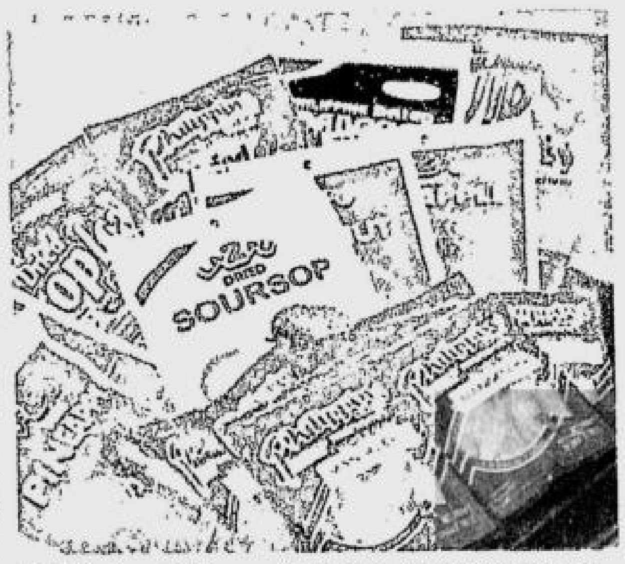


**HARDWORKING** student-volunteers man the Department of Agriculture booth.

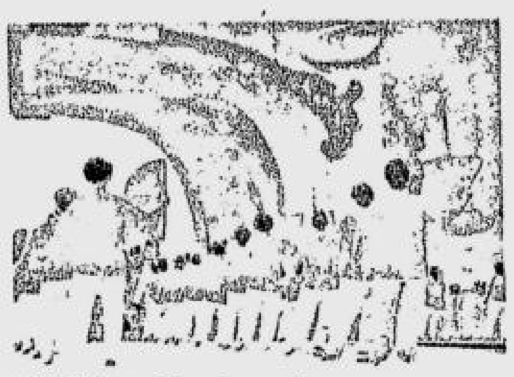
**EXHIBITORS** Marcelo Valenzuela Jr., Jumar Ordiz and Dr. Rey Salinel of Herbs & Nature Corp. with their interpreter



**RP'S** featured "charm city," Cebu, displays its famous food products and crafts at the country's tourism hall.

# China, here we come

**TERESA** Santos of Prosource International Inc.



**TAI-CHI** at a Nanning park

From page G1

salam, which had a full-size replica of the gilded royal carriage. Some Filipino delegates noted the RP pavilion somewhat lacked Pinoy flavor.

But Irma Merza, Citem's project manager for the RP pavilion, said the booth's minimalist and modern design represented the country's vision of moving into the future. And if the steady stream of visitors was any indication, the missing culture factor went unnoticed as soon as the Bayanihan Dance Troupe stepped into their colorful costumes.

It was the national dancers who tirelessly drew visitors into the booth with performances throughout the four-day expo. They were the booth's attractions, indulging the Nanning locals in their penchant for "kodakan" that could easily rival Pinoys'.

As part of promoting Cebu as a spa and resort destination, two massage therapists from Plantation Bay resort were on hand to give free rubdowns to expo visitors.

DOT said they didn't expect the crowd to automatically translate into a tourist market, explaining the absence of travel agents. "This is just a way of letting Nanning know of who we are and what we have to offer," said Irineo Reyes of DOT's Team China.

**DOT REGION XII** director Sohura Dimaampao gamely plays "mascot" to promote Mindanao and Palawan in the BIMP-Eaga pavilion. Mindanao's colorful tribal display is an instant hit with expo guests.

**THE VERY** modern RP tourism pavilion showing the colors of the flag in ship-like sails

## Colorful Mindanao

Palawan and Mindanao also did their own promotion through the BIMP-Eaga (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asia Growth Area) pavilion. The colorful display of Mindanao tribal costumes and brassware was a hit with the Chinese, drawing some 50,000 visitors daily.

Sohura Dimaampao, DOT Region XII regional director and sub-national coordinator of BIMP-Eaga Affairs, said her team from the far south aimed to promote ecotourism and adventure as alternative to Cebu and Manila's fancier hotels and resorts. "We are hoping that the spillover of tourists in Cebu will go to us, or vice versa, because we're not promoting only Mindanao and Palawan but the entire Philippines."

This may be a wise move as these two areas' reputations have long been marred by negative media reports concerning security that even local tourists refuse to venture further south.

"Those who talk about this haven't been to our place," Dimaampao lamented.

It will not be an easy task, she admitted, as there are still no direct flights to some of Mindanao's provinces. But she's not deterred. This early, they're already preparing for the influx of non-English-speaking tourists through an exchange-student program with Mindanao State University and Chinese universities.

**MASSAGE** therapists Jopet Diocampo and Cely Piega of Mactan's Plantation Bay resort demo the Cebu touch to expo guests with a life-like photo of an RP beach as backdrop.

## VCO, dried mangoes, etc.

At the commodities hall of the massive expo hall, the RP booths showcased a motley of products including healing virgin coconut oil (VCO), processed mango products, food supplements and noni juice.

"Very few countries have coconuts, and even the Philippines doesn't have enough coconuts to supply China alone," noted Teresa Santos of Prosource International Inc. Santos is president of VCO Phils., an association of VCO producers and exporters.

As expected, VCO was a hit among the herbal-product-loving Chinese that some begged to buy or reserve small bottles of the limited display for up to $20 each on the first day of the expo.

Of course, communicating to the expo visitors was a challenge as the exhibitors had to rely on the student volunteers assigned to them as translators.

"We're not just here to find distributors for Philippine products," said AsianFresh president Matthew Gaston. "We're also on the lookout for new stuffs for possible distribution back home."

## Labor export

Concorde International Human Resource Corp., a recruitment agency, was there to check possible labor export to China. Its representative, Gerry de Guzman, said China is now in need of some two million nurses for geriatric patients. But he added they have yet to get clear compensation packages before they could start sending Filipino nurses. "And then there's still the language barrier."

This is where HRIM Global Resources comes in. The consultancy company's thrust is the management training of hotel and restaurant professionals.

"Nanning tries to do its best, but it can't communicate," said president Divino Villanueva Jr., taking as example the third-class hotel where the Philippine delegation was billeted. Only two or three of the hotel staff spoke some English. "We're here to explain what Filipinos can give [in terms of training]. We're not even thinking of service to locals but to expats first, because they're starting to open to the world market."

Failing to get clearance from the Caexpo organizers, Herbs & Nature Corp., distributor of food supplements Liveraide, Fitrum and My Marvel Taheebo, had to content itself with distributing flyers, as it wasn't allowed to give out samples and sell its products. "We paid for excess baggage, now we have to take them back," moaned Dr. Rey Salinel.

One problem after another soon unraveled that whatever accomplishment the exhibitors had at promoting their products was eclipsed by their growing animosity with Elvie Borje, Citem's Caexpo project manager. They accused Borje of incompetence, blaming her for a range of issues from ill-prepared booths to her failure to communicate Caexpo's policies, lack of government subsidy, among others.

"I gave the best that I could even as I was given the project only midstream," Borje said in her defense. "There was subsidy; P60,000 (the amount paid by each exhibitor) isn't enough. There are always criticisms. Even Manila FAME (Citem's annual trade fair) has flaws."

To this, Lora Morier of the Coconut Company, one of the exhibitors, said, "Citem is not the problem, because I've joined Manila FAME before [and it wasn't like this]. The problem is the representative."

"Look at Thailand," Gaston said, pointing to their pavilion neighbor, which had 121 booths to RP's 10. "They're so organized."

"We (exhibitors) didn't know each other but we bonded because of all these problems," Morier said.

The issues that were raised were much closer to home that, it seems, the language barrier is the least of RP's problems as it makes an inroad to coveted China.

**THE BAYANIHAN** Dance Troupe injects culture into the modern and non-traditional RP tourism pavilion, and they go interactive as they teach Tinikling footwork to Chinese guests.

# TRAVELBRIEFS

## Special New Year package

TRADERS Hotel Manila is offering a special New Year Holiday Package for only P4,888, plus tax and service charge. It covers a two-night stay in a deluxe room, daily buffet breakfast for two at Traders Café and a 20-percent discount on food and beverage at the coffee shop.

An additional P1,000 means an upgrade to a Traders Club floor. Children 6 years old and below dining with their parents get free buffet meals. Santa Claus will be at the hotel lobby for photographs 5-7 p.m., Dec. 24, and 9 a.m.-12 noon, Dec. 25. Call 5279107, e-mail thmres@shangri-la.com, or log on to www.shangri-la.com.

## Online booking

EMIRATES, the Dubai-based airline, lets passengers plan and book their trip, and check in for their flights via the Internet.

The winner of TTG Asia's Annual Best Middle East/Africa Airline award has launched a Philippines page in its corporate website for [illegible]

The website provides flight information, fares, and other information.

Passengers can also avail of the electronic-ticketing option, eliminating paper tickets.

Emirates currently operates 10 return flights per week from Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) nonstop to Dubai.

## Boracay vacation

ENJOY Boracay through the Best Deals Under the Sun 2005 package until Dec. 15 on Standard, Deluxe and VIP rooms.

The Sun Village Boracay Resorts lets a party of three the chance to experience Boracay at the rate of P2,850 per person for a three-day, two-night stay. Couples pay only P3,300 per person, while a single traveler pays P6,600. For a four-day, three-night stay, each person pays P4,050 (triple occupancy), P4,700 (double occupancy) and P9,300 (single occupancy). The package includes standard room accommodation, breakfasts starting on the second day, welcome drinks as well as round-trip land and boat transfers. The offer is available in all three Sun Village Boracay Resorts.

Call the Manila office at 8131338 or 8937293, or the Boracay office at (63-36)2885541. Fax 8171186 or e-mail sunresorts@tri-isys.com.

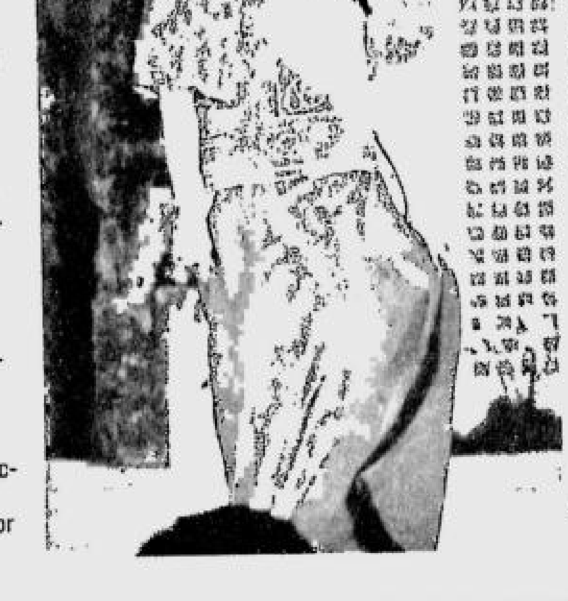
## Family resort getaway in Calatagan

GOLDEN Sunset Resort and Spa in Calatagan, Batangas, is a vacation resort. Just a two-hour drive from Makati, it has facilities and amenities for families.

Massages and beauty treatments are offered at the Serendipity Spa. There are billiards and volleyball facilities in the sanded court surrounded by lush gardens. There's an Olympic-size pool with water slides. Another attraction is the butterfly farm.

Families may catch fresh *tilapia* from the surrounding fishponds and have them cooked at the open-air dining area where they can enjoy home-cooked meals and local delicacies.

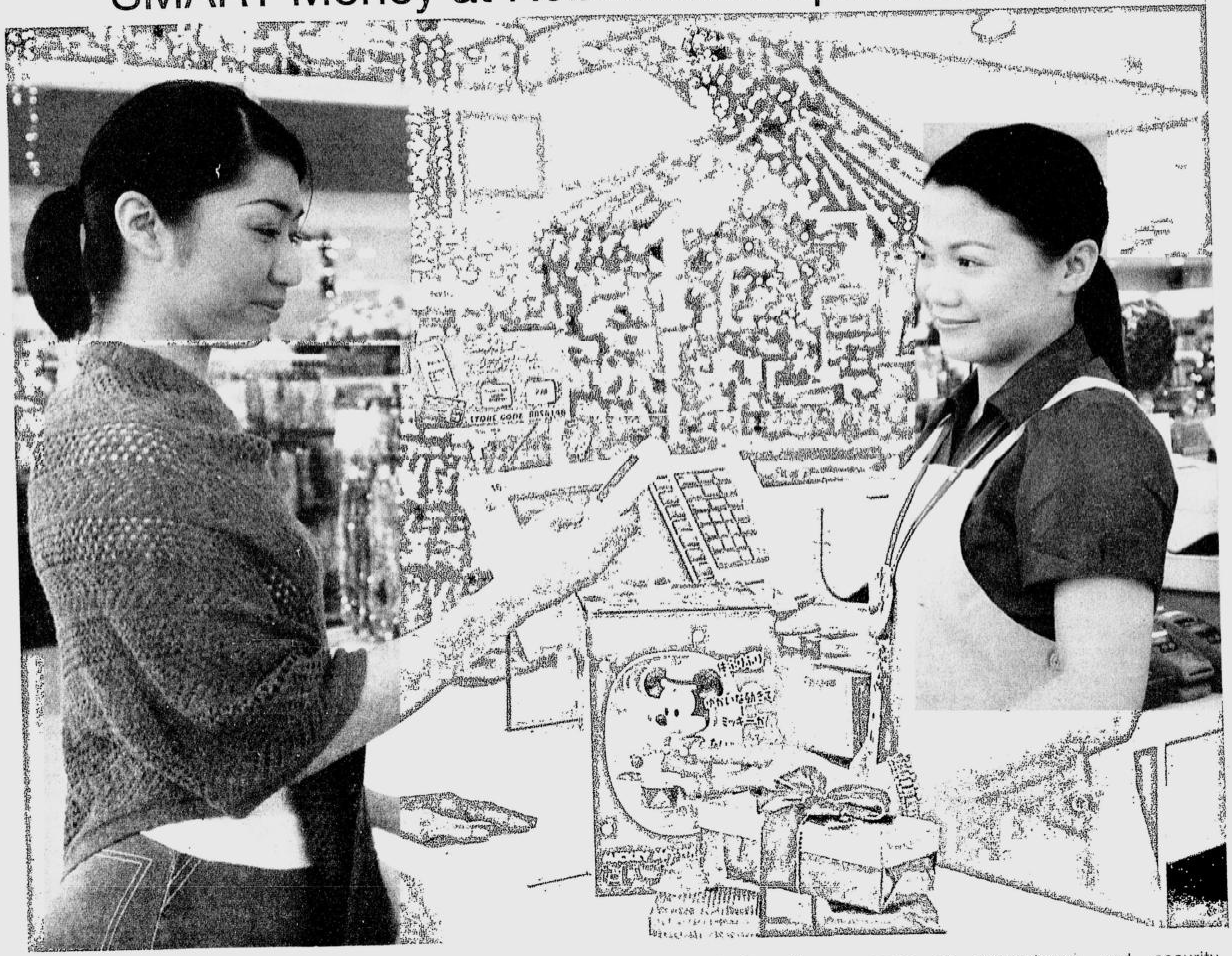
At sundown, families may lounge in the open-air pavilions and watch the sunset. Golden Sunset has 75 rooms, which can accommodate 140 people, and a dormitory which can house 42 heads. Call 6361687 or 6343109



**MODA FILIPINA, A 70-PIECE** fashion collection by Toni Galang, was presented recently at the Cavalier Country Club in Newark, Delaware, to benefit Gawad Kalinga, Little Sisters of the Poor and Adopt-a-Home Family in Delaware. The show was sponsored by the Filipino-American Association of Delaware headed by Ruben Rubio. It was also presented by the Yonkers Millennium Lions Club of New York at the Grinton Will Library in Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, New York, for the Katrina hurricane victims and the Philippine Artesian Well Project in Davao province; and at the Resort International Hotel in Atlantic City as a fundraiser of the Philippine Medical Association of New Jersey spearheaded by Dr. Letty de Castro and Dr. Alex and Mila Cueto. The show was directed by Raymond Villanueva.

# The Next Step in Shopping

## Get a 1% Instant Rebate with SMART Money at Robinsons Department Store



**Now, it's even better! Experience cashless and card-free shopping with SMART Money and enjoy a 1% instant rebate on purchases made in participating Robinsons Department Stores* from December 11, 2005 until January 11, 2006.**

Internationally-acclaimed, award-winning SMART Money pioneered mobile shopping in the Philippines. Today, SMART Money users can already make payments direct from their celfones at Robinsons Department Store. Cash and cards are no longer necessary! SMART Money also allows you to load up celfones, withdraw cash, and transfer cash balances from one celfone to another.

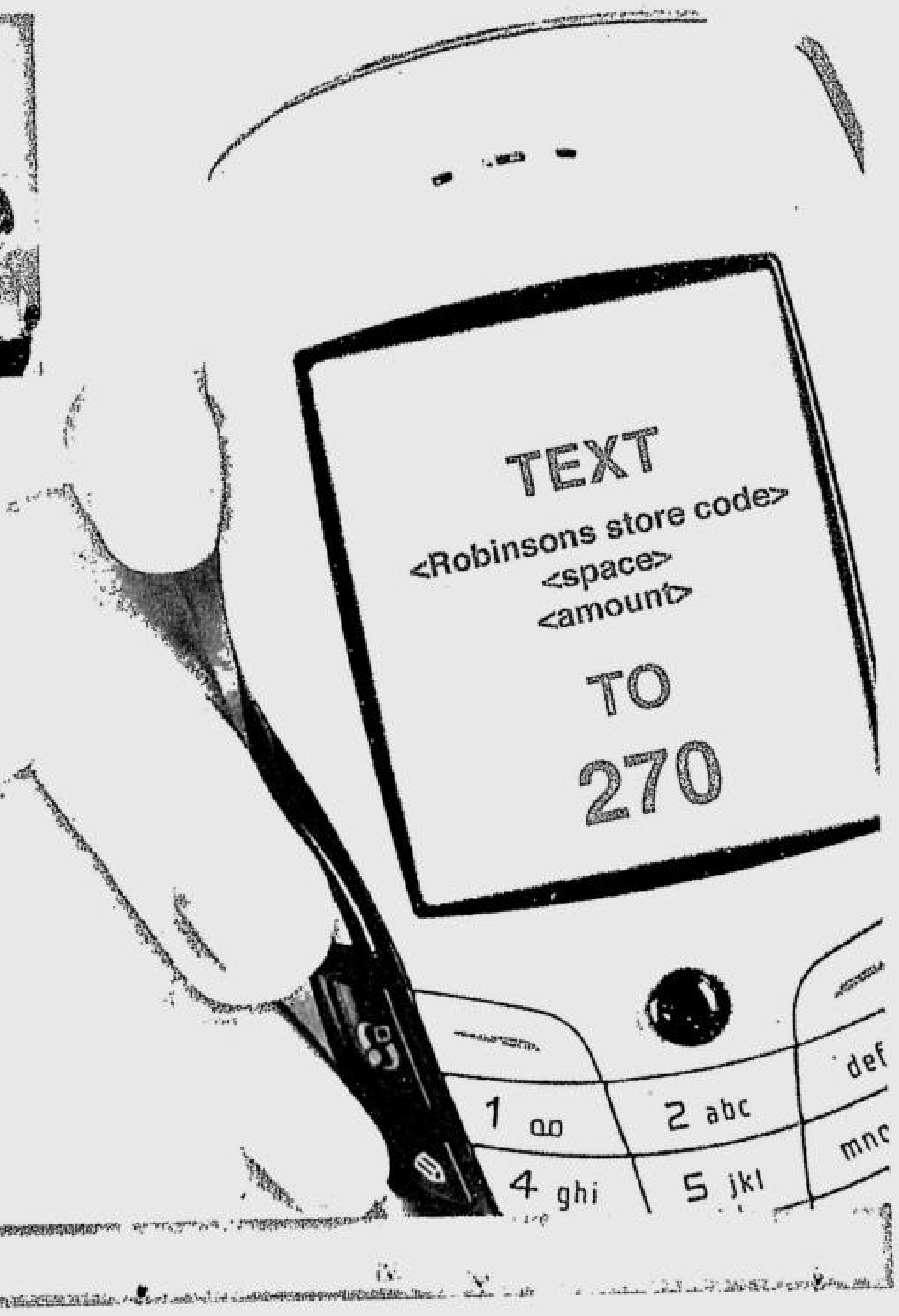
Now, making purchases via SMART Money at Robinsons Department Store is as convenient and as easy as sending a text message. You simply have to key in the <Robinsons store code> <space> <amount> and send it to 270. You will then receive a confirmation message that payment has been successfully done. You can also load through SMART Wireless Centers, 7-11 stores, and other SMART Padala Centers. For added safety and ease of mind, transactions above P300 are password protected. With the concerns of convenience and security addressed, SMART Money will no doubt revolutionize your mobile shopping experience!

**Initially available in Metro Manila.*

Robinsons
SMART Money
MOBILE PAYMENT

(L-R) Thelma Roxas, VP and Chief Information Officer of Robinsons Retail Group; Norman Causing, Customer Relations and Services Manager of Robinsons Department Store; Graham Coates, Gen. Manager, Robinsons Department Store; Danilo Ibarra, SMART Group Head for e-Services Marketing; Lawrence Ferrer, SMART Senior Manager e-Services Marketing; Ruth Reyes, Supervisor of Retail Marketing, SMART e-Services Marketing

Robinsons Department Store

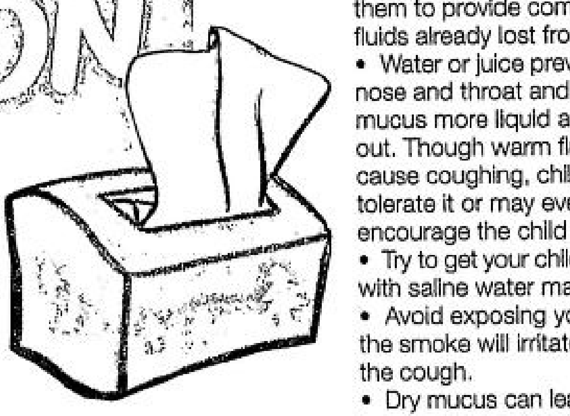


SMART Money

Robinsons

# Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.
INFOBOX

# COLD COMMON SENSE THIS CHRISTMAS



## What is the "common cold"?

The common cold, or what your doctor would call an upper respiratory infection (URI), is a viral infection of the nose and throat occurring exceedingly in young children.

## What causes URI?

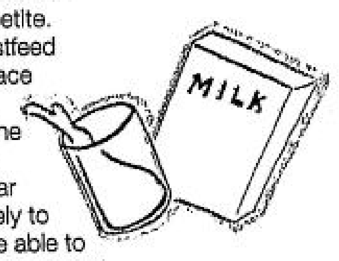
There are more than 200 viruses known to cause URIs. These seldom produce serious illnesses. However, some viruses may produce mild infections in adults but can lead to severe lower respiratory infections in children.

## What are the symptoms of the "common cold"?

There may be fever, usually low grade 38°C and below, lasting not more than 3 days. In the early stages, the secretion is thin, watery and clear, but after a few days, it becomes thicker and occasionally turns yellow or green. The presence of post-nasal drip produces cough, which is initially dry and hacking and is usually noted at night. A few days later, the cough may become productive and may be associated with vomiting. Infants are often irritable, and restless because of the fever and may have a poor appetite. There may be sleeping and feeding difficulties. Most symptoms subside within 5 to 7 days although the cough may persist for 1 to 2 weeks longer.

## What can we do for our children suffering from a "cold"?

- Infants and children should be dressed comfortably.
- Frequent small meals should be given to compensate for the decrease in appetite. For infants who are still nursing, breastfeed them to provide comfort and to replace fluids already lost from the body.
- Water or juice prevents drying of the nose and throat and helps keep the mucus more liquid and easier to clear out. Though warm fluids are less likely to cause coughing, children may not be able to tolerate it or may even refuse to drink it. Simply encourage the child to drink his own choice of liquid.
- Try to get your child to rest. For older children, gargling with saline water may relieve sore throat.
- Avoid exposing your child to cigarette smoke since the smoke will irritate the throat further worsening the cough.
- Dry mucus can lead to stuffy noses making sleep and feeding more difficult. An infant cannot breathe through the mouth and suck at the same time, hence, it is important to clear the nose before feeding and also prior to sleep. Using saline nasal drops, a safe and non-irritating solution, followed by suctioning with a rubber suction bulb before feeding and at naptime will make them comfortable.
- Steam from a vaporizer may soothe your child's nose and throat. However, be sure to clean the vaporizer frequently to avoid the growth of microorganisms.



## What are the complications of the "common cold"?

Complications are more common during the first year of life. They should be suspected when symptoms are unusually severe, when other symptoms appear, and when symptoms last longer than expected. Common complications include ear infections, sinusitis and pneumonia.

## How do you treat the "common cold"?

There is no known cure for the common cold. URIs are self-limiting infections – affected children will always get well with or without medications within a few days to a few weeks. Generally, the cold virus will survive until the child's immune system produces enough antibodies to fight off the virus. Antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections will not speed up the healing process of a cold. Although there is no cure, many of the symptoms can be relieved. In both infants and children, the main goal of treatment is to make them as comfortable as possible.

## How can we prevent the "common cold" from occurring?

Since a cold is very common, it is almost impossible for children to avoid getting one. No medication can be given to prevent a cold and, in spite of medical advances, vaccines against the common cold are not likely to be developed in the near future. However certain measures can be taken to prevent its occurrence.

- Hand washing is the single, most effective way of preventing the common cold.
- Remind children to refrain from touching their eyes and nose.
- Avoid exposing your child to people with a cold. Remember, the spread of the infection is highest during the first days of the URI.
- Since cold viruses are able to survive up to three hours on the surfaces of objects, cleaning their surfaces with a virus-killing disinfectant may help prevent their spread.

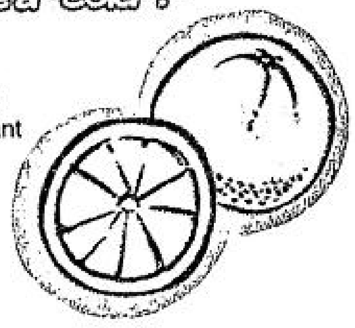
## How can we prevent children from spreading the infection?

Remind them to do the following:

- Cover their mouth and nose with disposable tissue whenever they cough or sneeze, and to throw the soiled tissue into the trash can.
- Wash their hands after sneezing and coughing. .

## Will large doses of Vitamin C prevent, shorten or cure a "cold"?

Studies have not supported this claim. It is however important to give the child the minimum daily requirements of Vitamin C.



## Can antibiotics prevent complication associated with the "common cold"?

Giving antibiotics during a URI will not prevent complications from developing; instead, resistance of bacteria to the antibiotic may be induced.

*This health education campaign is made possible through a grant from Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc. – Council on Child Advocacy and Community Service, Committee on Health Education and UNILAB Consumer Health

## How does a child acquire the "common cold"?

Cold viruses are found in large quantities in the nasal secretions of children with a cold. Children are most contagious during the first 3 days of infection because the highest concentration of the virus in nasal secretion is seen during this period. For a child to catch a cold, the virus must come in contact with the nasal mucous membrane. A young child with a cold may contaminate his hands as a result of nose blowing, sneezing and/or nose touching. If he touches a playmate's hands and this playmate subsequently touches his eyes and/or nose, the cold virus may then enter his body. The cold viruses are also easily transferred to the hands as a result of touching contaminated objects such as toys and surfaces in the environment of the cold-infected child. Lastly, when a child sneezes or coughs, he may propel droplets or mucus teaming with virus particles into the air. When a playmate inhales the contaminated air, the virus will be able to attach to the lining of the nose.

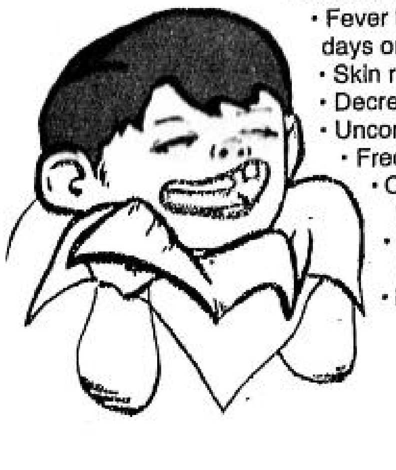
## Why do children seem to have a "cold" more frequently?

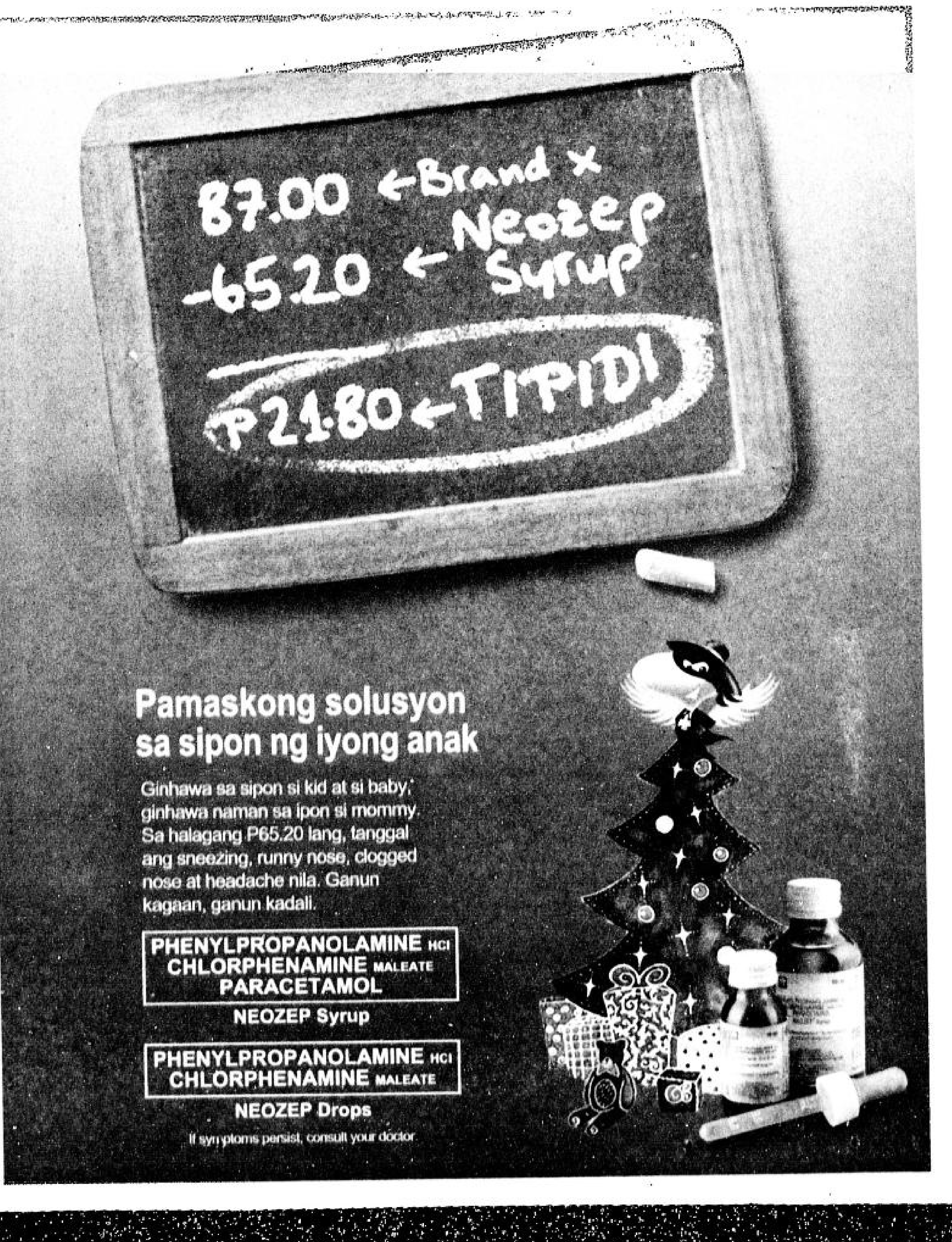
Newborns are temporarily immune to these cold viruses as a result of their mother's immunity. By 6 months, this immunity would have already waned and these infants will now be susceptible to the common cold. Two factors may explain the higher rate in children. First is their relative lack of built-in resistance. Though children develop lifelong immunity after each bout of URI, immunity to all the cold viruses takes a long time to develop as over 100 viruses have now already been characterized. Secondly, they have increased contact with other children in school thus also increasing their exposure to infections. Young children have, on the average, six to eight cold infections a year. After the age of six years, cold infections become less frequent with adolescents having the same rate as adults – two to four times a year, with a slightly higher frequency seen in those with children in the household.

## When should children be brought to the doctor?

Children should be brought immediately to the doctor if the following symptoms are present:

- Ear ache
- Fever lasting more than 3 days or high grade fever
- Skin rash
- Decrease in urination
- Uncontrollable cough
- Frequent vomiting
- Cough and/or nasal discharge lasting more than 2 weeks
- Difficulty in sleeping and feeding
- Difficulty or labored breathing





Pamaskong solusyon sa sipon ng iyong anak

Ginhawa sa sipon si kid at si baby; ginhawa naman sa ipon si mommy. Sa halagang P65.20 lang, tanggal ang sneezing, runny nose, clogged nose at headache nila. Ganun kagaan, ganun kadali.

PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE HCl
CHLORPHENAMINE MALEATE
PARACETAMOL

NEOZEP Syrup

PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE HCl
CHLORPHENAMINE MALEATE

NEOZEP Drops

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

# *The Wonders of Shopping with* BPI Express Credit Cards

Everybody love Christmas. The cool romantic air, dancing lights, wonderful Christmas trees, and infectious kindness, all of these don't even begin to express half of what the season really means. It is a time of celebration and appreciation, a chance to rebuild friendships and rediscover relationships. But no one can deny that Christmas puts a strain on our pockets more than any other time of the year. We try to splurge as much as we can on the people who are special to us, scouring the malls for one-of-a-kind Christmas presents for family and friends. And of course, wouldn't we want to indulge ourselves with a nice gift as well?

While it's the thought that really counts, Christmas is a special occasion and something special for the ones we love is what need. Luckily, BPI Express Credit is making this year's holiday shopping not only easier on our bank accounts but also more rewarding for us. It has come up with a host of surprises, freebies, and discounts to delight cardholders with more than they bargained for in their shopping escapades.

Triple the Joys of Christmas. Three exciting perks await shoppers when they purchase with their BPI Credit Card

- Make it Happen. Starting now until May 15, 2006, every P1,000 single receipt transaction or P3,000 single receipt Special Interest Plan (SIP) transaction entitles cardholders to one raffle entry which gives them a chance to win:

A United States theme park package for four and P200,000 shopping credits for BPI Express Credit Classic and Blue Mastercard cardholders.

A Mediterranean cruise for four and P500,000 shopping credits for BPI Express Credit Gold Mastercard cardholders.

A 2006 Audi A4 Avant with free one year comprehensive car insurance for BPI Express Credit Petron-BPI Mastercard cardholders.

A 2006 Porsche Boxter with free one year comprehensive car insurance for BPI Express Credit Edge and Mini-edge Mastercard cardholders.

- Double Your Frequent User Reward Points. Using their BPI Express Credit Classic (Burgundy), cardholders receive double reward points which entitles them to great prizes or giveaways. This promo lasts until December 31, 2005.
- Triple Your Buying Power. All SIP accredited merchants are tripling cardholders' credit limit until December 31, 2005.

Mad About e'Mall. BPI Credit Card holders qualify for one raffle entry with every P1,000 minimum single receipt transaction or P3000 single receipt SIP transaction to win the following prizes:

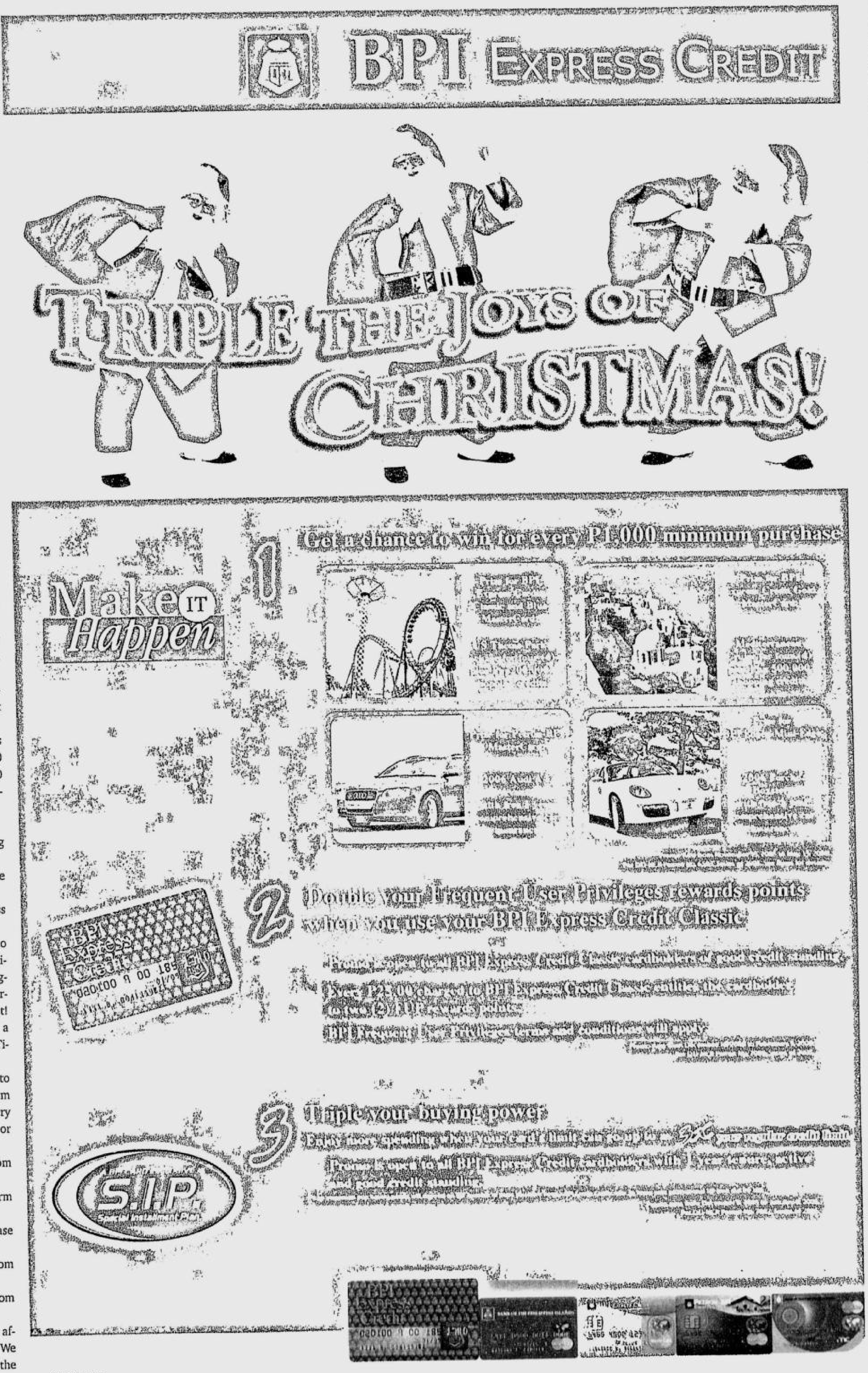
- Grand prize - Nissan Patrol 4x4
- 2 winners - P20,000 worth of shopping credits every month
- 3 winners - P50,000 worth of Timezone cards every month
- 3 winners - P2,500 worth of Movie Pass every month

Madness! Madness! at Market! Market! to Win! Win!. Until February 15, 2006, minimum of P500 single receipt purchase for regular transactions or P3,000 single receipt purchase for SIP transactions at Market! Market! entitles cardholders one raffle entry to win a grand prize of the new Nissan Frontier T3 Titanium.

R Madness. Cardholders get a chance to win gift certificates and special prizes from the Robinsons group of stores with every P500 minimum single receipt purchase or P3,000 single receipt SIP transaction.

- P50,000 worth of gift certificates from Robinsons Department Stores
- P50,000 worth of gift certificates form Robinsons Supermarket
- P20,000 worth of appliance showcase from Robinsons Appliances
- P20,000 worth of gift certificates from handyman Do It Best Home Center
- P10,000 worth of gift certificates from TopShop/TopMan/Dorothy Perkins

Christmas shopping will definitely be an affair to remember with BPI Credit Cards. We can spoil our friends and family with all the gifts they want and still have lots of time to work out our budget. What's more, we also get many chances to win our own Christmas gift in a truly memorable holiday season.



BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

TRIPLE THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS!

Make IT Happen

1 Get a chance to win for every P1,000 minimum purchase

[illegible]

2 Double your Frequent User Privileges rewards points when you use your BPI Express Credit Classic

[illegible]

3 Triple your buying power

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S.I.P.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

For inquiries, call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

# Super shopping madness spree at Market! Market!

THE SHOPPING MADNESS HAS come upon the queen of malls down there at Fort Bonifacio. Market! Market!, the super regional shopping center, is currently holding BPI Express Credit Card's Madness! Madness! at Market! Market! to Win! Win!

With BPI Express Credit Card's Madness! Madness! at Market! Market! to Win! Win!, shoppers using BPI Express Credit cards at Market! Market! will have a chance to win a brand new Nissan Frontier Titanium 3 Series in the grand draw and other exciting prizes.

For just a minimum purchase of P500 (single receipt) at any of the participating Market! Market! merchants one is entitled to a raffle entry when you use BPI Express Credit cards in the purchase.

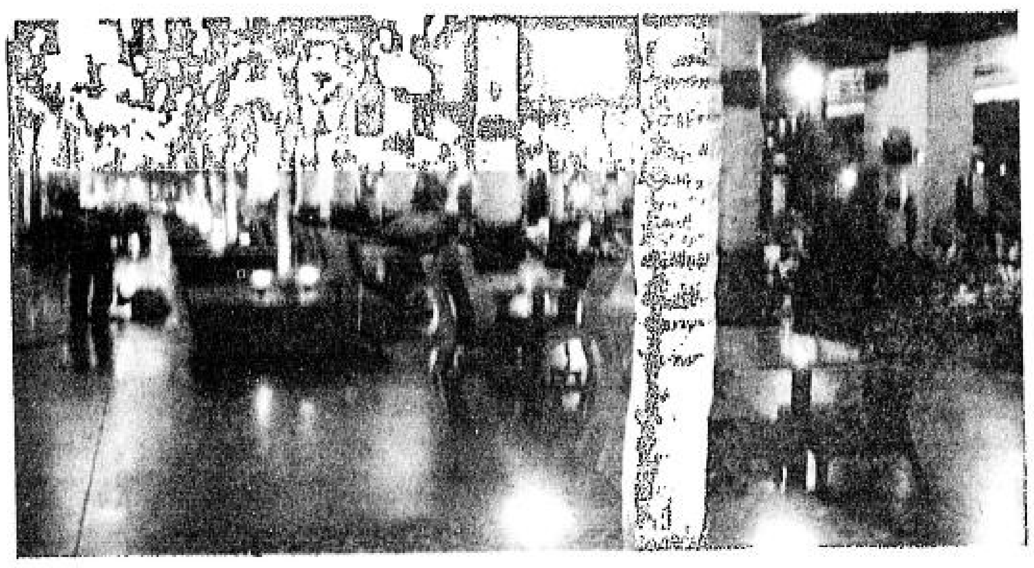
BPI Credit Cards' Madness! Madness! at Market! Market! to Win! Win! is all about shopping madness loaded with shopping full of discounts, freebies, 0-percent installment on selected items, special tie-up rates and a grand raffle prize of Nissan Frontier Titanium 3 Series.

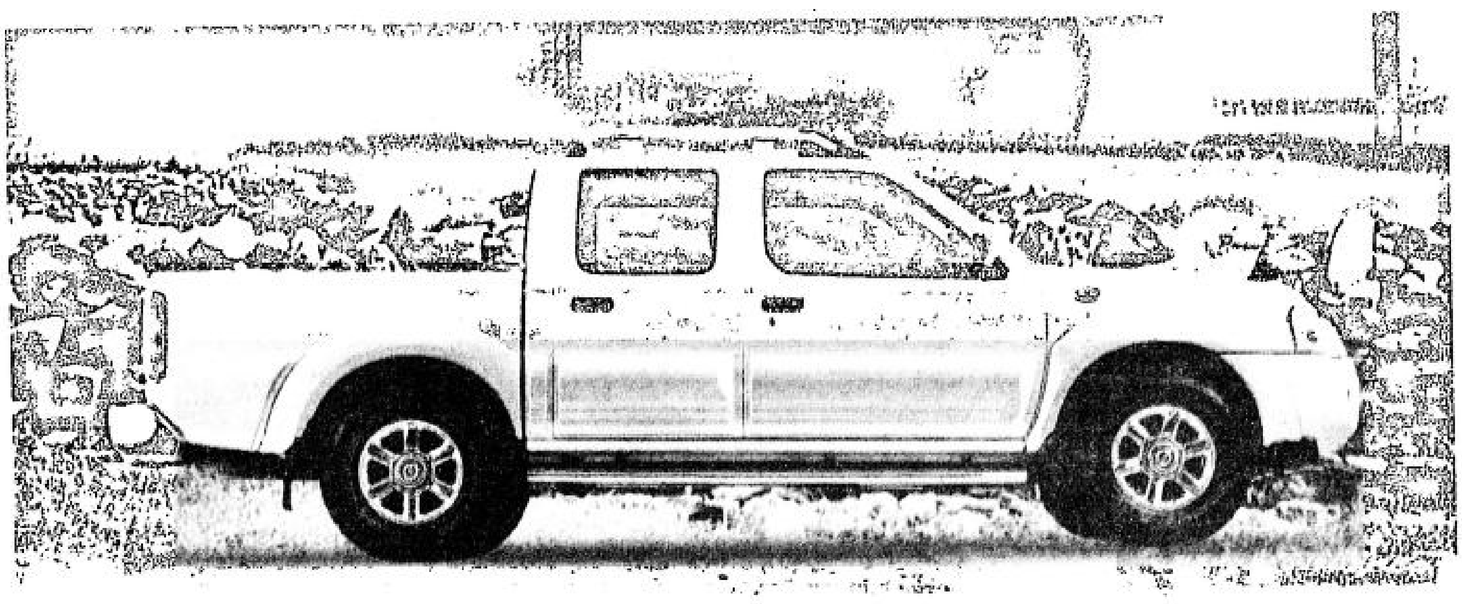
Promo will run until February 15, 2006. During the promo period, all BPI credit card holders will enjoy the especially low Special Installment Plan (SIP) interest rates with credit card purchases.

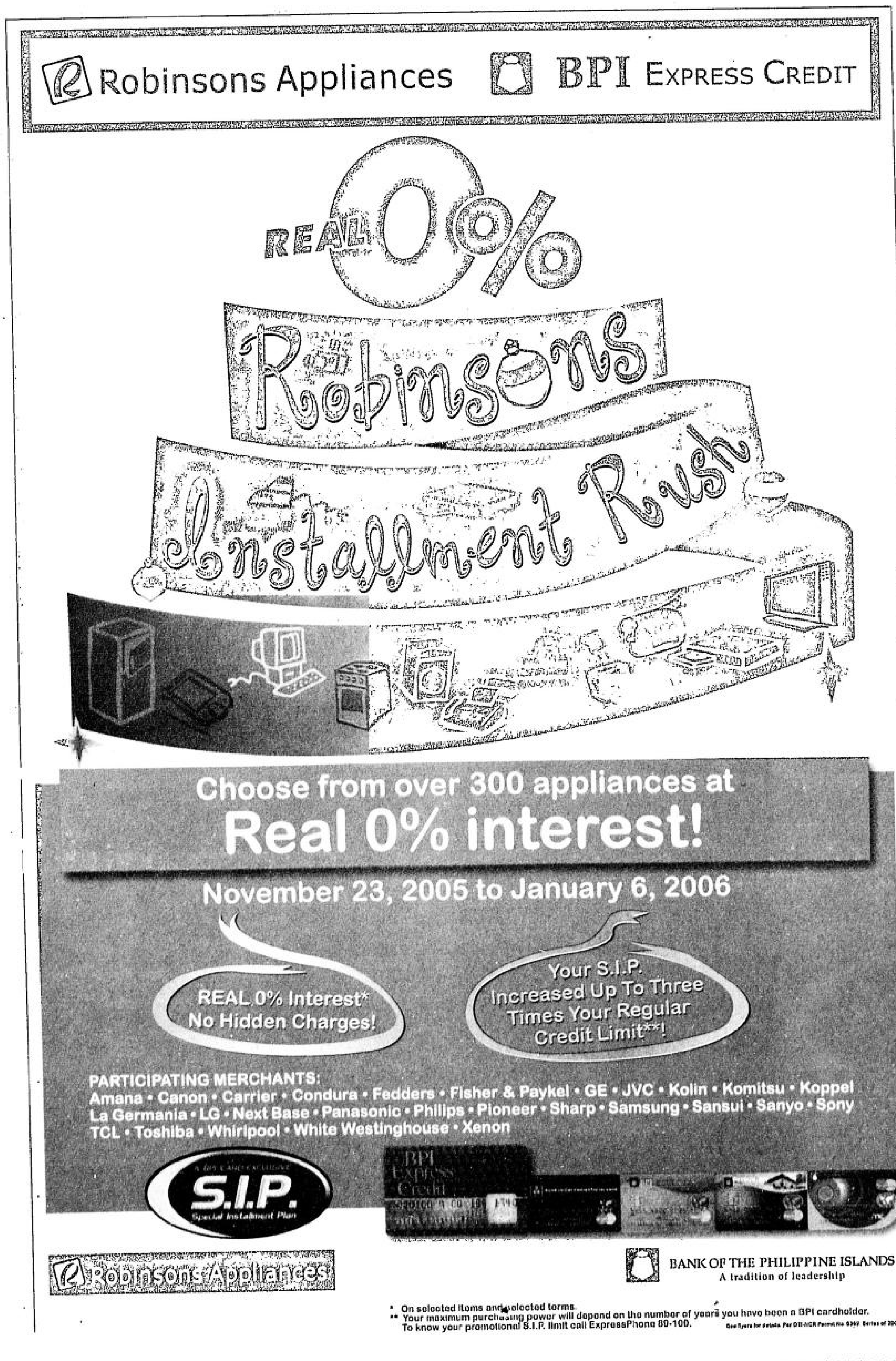
The new Market! Market!, which is currently creating a buzz with its offers of bargain RTWs and fresh food delights, is now becoming a super - regional shopping center. It offers value retail shopping, dining and entertainment combined with comfort, convenience and security.

Market! Market! has also the non-traditional merchandising mix like the zoned theme bazaars such as textile, toys arts and crafts, the outdoor area which includes a restaurant row, fresh fruits, flowers, and vegetables market, motortown for car repair and accessories, and the Hawker's food center also known as the Fiesta Market offering the best from the region under one roof.

Truly, this Christmas season can be even more rewarding with great value with BPI Express Credit cards.






Robinsons Appliances
BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

Choose from over 300 appliances at
Real 0% interest!
November 23, 2005 to January 6, 2006

REAL 0% Interest*
No Hidden Charges!

Your S.I.P.
Increased Up To Three
Times Your Regular
Credit Limit**!

PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS:
Amana • Canon • Carrier • Condura • Fedders • Fisher & Paykel • GE • JVC • Kolin • Komitsu • Koppel
La Germania • LG • Next Base • Panasonic • Philips • Pioneer • Sharp • Samsung • Sansui • Sanyo • Sony
TCL • Toshiba • Whirlpool • White Westinghouse • Xenon

S.I.P.
Special Installment Plan

Robinsons Appliances

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

* On selected items and selected terms.
** Your maximum purchasing power will depend on the number of years you have been a BPI cardholder.
To know your promotional S.I.P. limit call ExpressPhone 89-100.
See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2005

# Mad rush to installment spree

TRUE TO ITS PROMISE OF providing excellent and money-for-value shopping experience, the BPI Express Credit Card Corporation tied up with Robinsons for exciting promotion that will surely give shoppers something to smile about this season of gift buying and giving.

Christmas, after all, is also meant for shoppers of gifts and giver of rewards. One way for harried shoppers to reward themselves is a chance to purchase dream appliance or home gadgets through Robinsons Installment Rush.

> One way for harried shoppers to reward themselves is a chance to purchase dream appliance or home gadgets through Robinsons Installment Rush

From November 23, 2005 until January 6, 2006, BPI Express Credit cardholders can use their BPI Express Credit cards and avail of appliances and gadgets from all Robinsons Appliances nationwide at real 0 percent interest. This means no hidden charges, whatsoever!

In addition, BPI Express Credit cardholders who make their credit purchases at Robinsons Appliances will enjoy credit limits thrice the ceiling amount provided by their credit cards.

Robinsons Installment Rush shall be available at Robinsons Appliance/R-Abenson outlets in the following malls within the promo period:

Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Place Dasmarinas, Robinsons Place Metroeast, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Robinsons Place Bacolod, Robinsons Place Cebu, Robinsons Place Angeles, Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro.

Mad rush to installment shopping this Christmas season using your BPI Express Credit cards to get the best value for your money.

Robinsons Appliances

# Dash to shop and win!

Shop using your BPI Express Credit Card at Ayala Malls in Makati, Alabang and Cebu, and you'll get a chance to win a brand new Nissan Patrol 4X4 and other fantastic prizes in BPI's '2Mad About eMall'

SOMETHING BIGGER AND BETTER is happening over at the Ayala Malls this season of shopping. Literally the ground is shaking with the roar of wheels.

Shop using your BPI Express Credit Card at Ayala Malls in Makati, Alabang and Cebu, and you'll get a chance to win a brand new Nissan Patrol 4X4 and other fantastic prizes in BPI's "2Mad About eMall".

With BPI's "2Mad About Emall," BPI credit card holders will have a chance to win the ultimate wish-come-true vehicle this Christmas, the Nissan Patrol 4x4, in the grand draw plus prizes of shopping credits, Timezone cards and Ayala Cinema passes in the monthly draws for minimum transaction amount of P1,000 on regular purchase or P3,000 on Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.) purchase.

Aside from the great prizes, BPI cardholders will enjoy the real zero percent deals on installment purchases with participating Ayala Mall merchants.

BPI credit cards offer a range of cards that fit every personality, budget and different buying preferences.

The BPI Express Credit Classic is for the value-conscious. It is a low-financed charge card, only at 2.99 percent (the lowest in the market) and is the only card accepted in Makro and Ateneo.

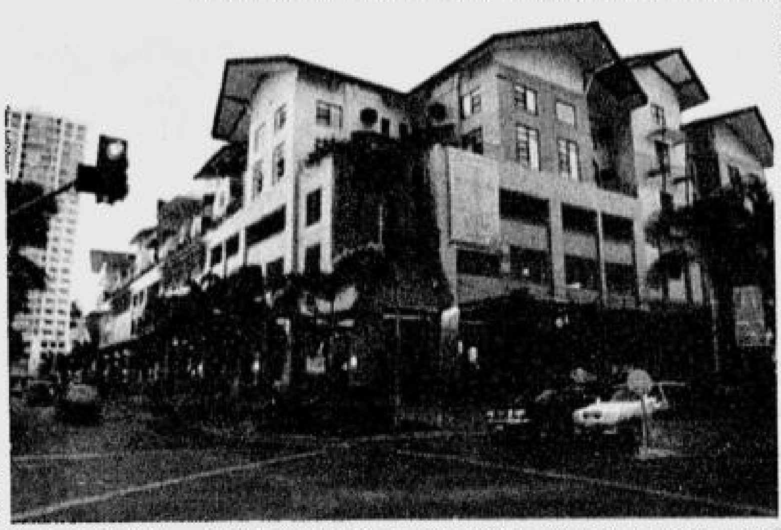
The BPI Express Credit Blue MasterCard, also called "The Sensible Card," enjoys wide international and local acceptance and offers superior convenience and value in purchases.

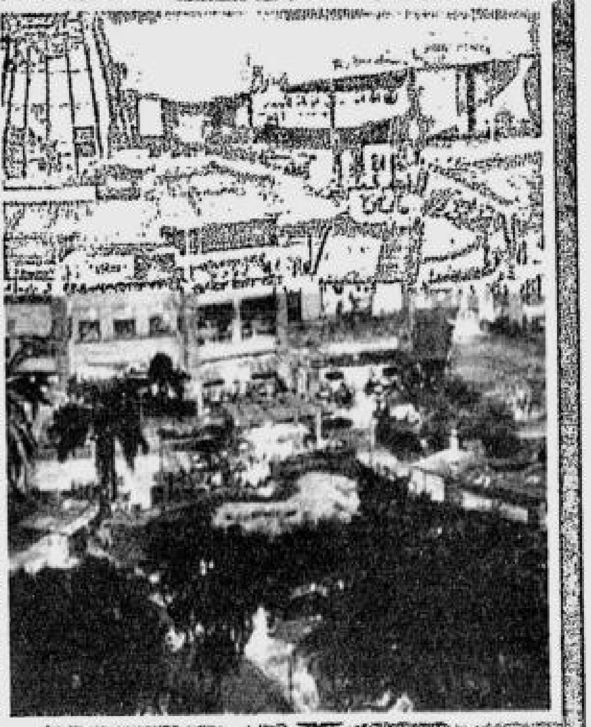
The BPI Edge/Mini-Edge MasterCard is for the young and upwardly mobile. It is the "hip" card that offers loads of freebies and discounts at trendy establishments. It also offers a very pocket-friendly P110 monthly fee.

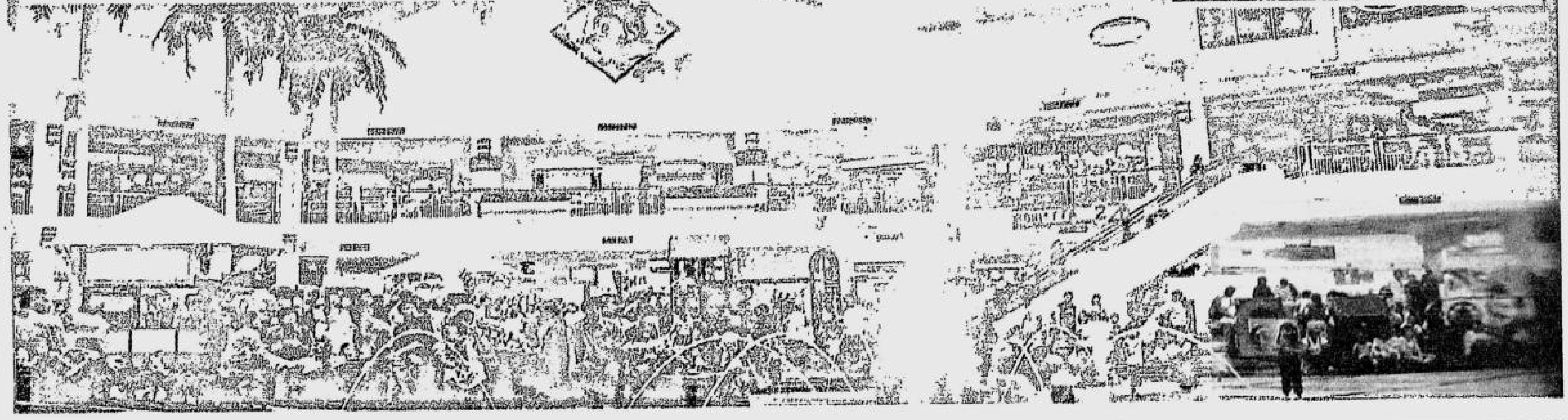
The Petron-BPI MasterCard is the choice card for motorists because it instantly offers 2 percent rebates on gasoline purchases at Petron Gas Stations. It also offers a 24-hour price shield.

The BPI Express Credit Gold MasterCard is the premium card for the elite. It boasts of an exclusive paysafe system and tons of privileges on purchases.

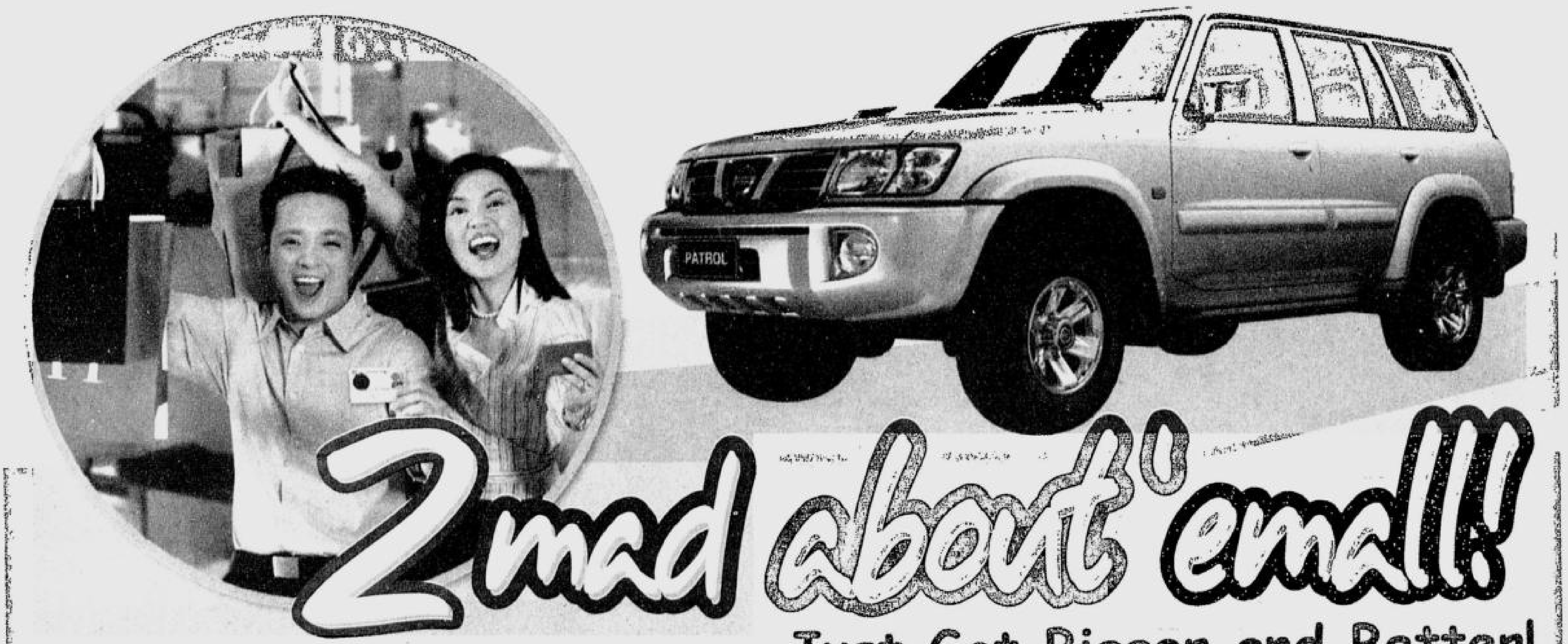
The "2Mad About eMall" is an exclusive promotion brought to you the second time around by BPI Express Credit and Ayala Land. Promo runs until March 31, 2006.







AYALA CENTER GLORIETA
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Lov'eMall!
BPI EXPRESS CREDIT



Just Got Bigger and Better!

MONTHLY DRAWS

2 winners of P20,000 worth of shopping credits each!

3 winners of TimeZone cards worth P5,000 each!

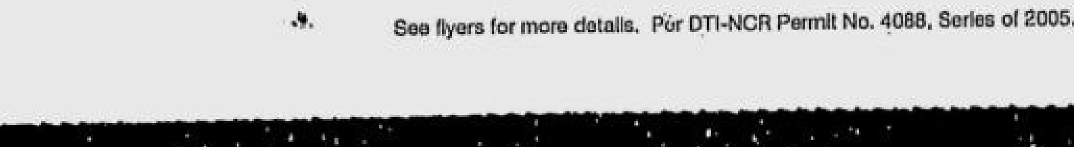
3 winners of Movie Passes at Ayala Cinemas worth P2,500 each!

Shop in Ayala Malls using your BPI Express Credit Card for a chance to win a Nissan Patrol 4x4 in the Grand Draw and fabulous prizes in the Monthly Draws.

From November 25, 2005 to March 31, 2006

REAL 0%

S.I.P.



NISSAN PATROL
Universal Motors Corporation
AYALA CINEMAS

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

For Inquiries, Call BPI Express Phone 89-100 Or Log On To www.bpiexpressonline.com

See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4088, Series of 2005.

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT
You may win the trip that puts the world at your feet and your family by your side.
Only from the credit cards that can
Make IT Happen

**To join, simply charge a minimum purchase of ₱1,000 to your BPI Express Credit Card.**
**Every ₱1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle entry. The more entries, the more chances to win.**

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

PETRON

*To apply for a BPI Express Credit Card, visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center near you or call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

*Annual membership fee for new customers waived for the first year.
*Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries.
*Actual unit may vary from photo.

BPI Express Credit's Make it Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6603, Series of 2005

PGA Cars, Inc.
Sole importer and distributor

PORSCHE

Audi

Prudential Guarantee

INQUIRER

# JOB *Market*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005
Philippine Copyright 1995
3 SECTIONS

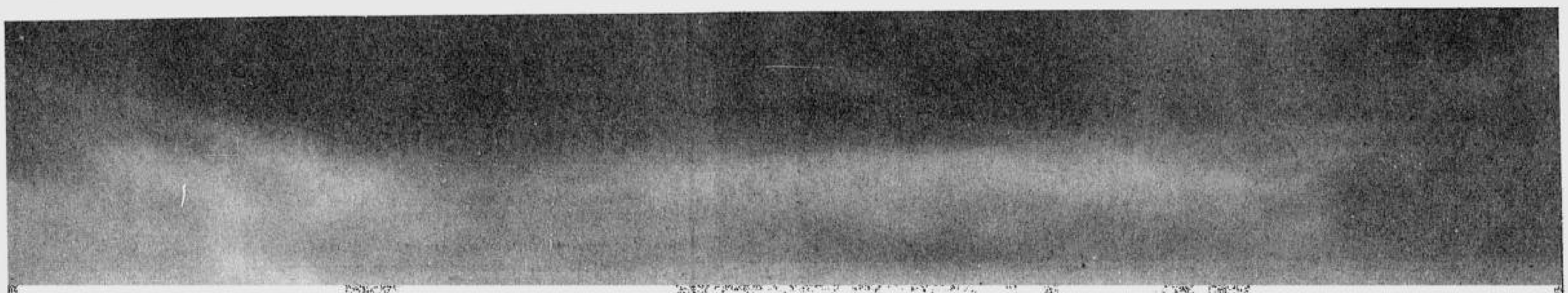
**JOB** *Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
**RATES** (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
**DEADLINES**
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Get a copy of
JOBMARKET
(3 Sections)
on Sunday Issue
of Inquirer

For jobseekers, log on to: www.jobmarketonline.com

☆ *Where You Find The Best.*

**Text us your feedback:** Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



# Horizons not borders.

## Solutions not differences.
## Challenges not barriers.

**Grasp opportunities, seek new possibilities and extend your line of sight.**

**Contact us.**

**We're looking for good communicators with passion for learning and drive for success.**

**CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES**
- for Inbound Programs
- for Outbound Programs
- for Financial Programs
- for Consumer Programs

**TEAM LEADERS**

**OPERATIONS MANAGERS**

**SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGERS**

**For customer care and non-agent requirements, call us at 8577760 or email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com. You are most welcome to visit any of our offices.**

**For technical customer care requirements, call 6318230 or email your resume to hro@teledevelopment.com**

**Bring a 2x2 photo together with your resume. Hired applicants shall be receiving a cash bonus on top of regular compensation. Celebrate the holidays with Convergys!**

**For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 for Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.**

Recruitment Hotline: 8577760
philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com

CONVERGYS
*Outthinking Outdoing*

**Ortigas Office**
24th Floor, Robinson's Equitable Tower
#4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center
Pasig City

**Commonwealth Office**
Diliman Commercial Center
#46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue,
Diliman Quezon City

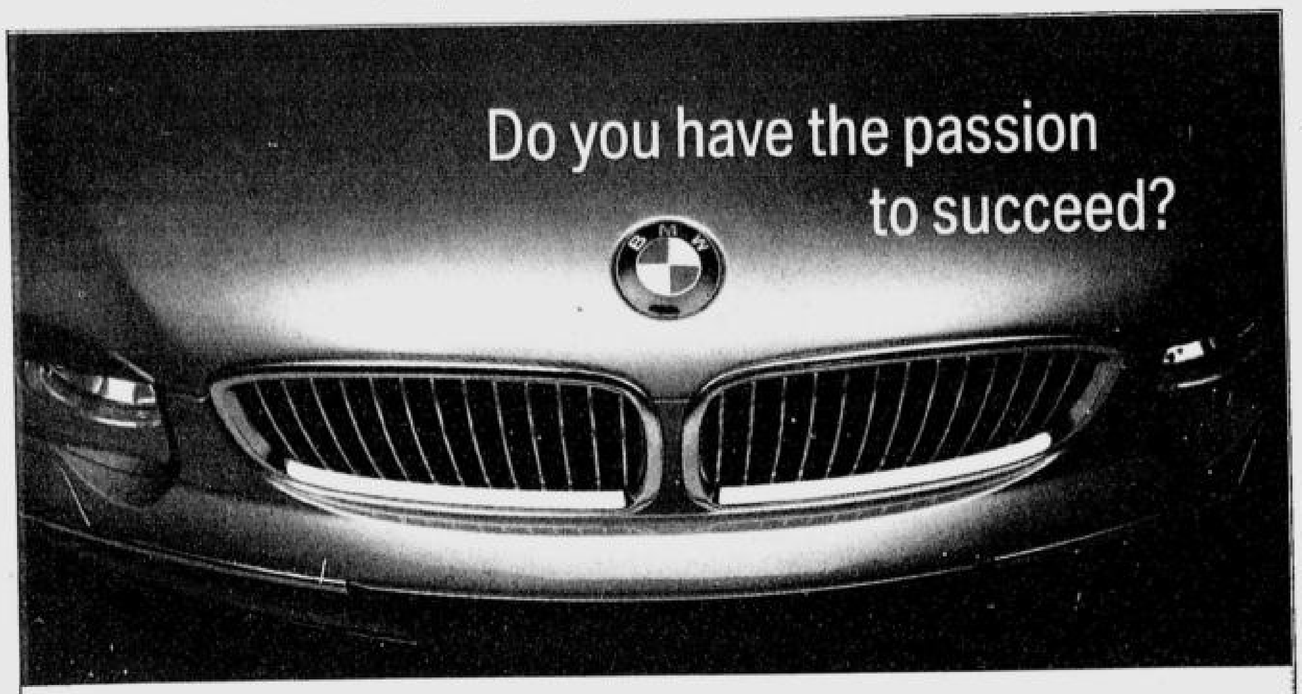
**Makati Office**
8th Floor, Tower 2,
The Enterprise
Center Ayala Avenue
Makati City

**U-Belt Office**
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard cor.
Padre Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila

**Cebu Office**
R. Arcenas Street,
Arcenas Estate
Banawa Hills
Cebu City

**Alabang Office**
Block 44, Northgate
Cyberzone
Muntinlupa City

# MANAGERIAL



## Sales Manager - New Cars
and
## Sales Manager - Pre-owned Cars

If you have the passion to succeed and the drive to excel, when your vision is continued growth with the most successful premium car brand in the Philippines, then you are just the kind of individual BMW is looking for.

Our Authorized dealers are looking for Sales Professionals who want to move a step up in their career and join the BMW network.

**Personal qualifications:**

- An enthusiastic, target-oriented and self-confident personality
- Excellent communication skills
- A strong customer orientation
- Strong analytical skills
- Management capability
- Experience in the automotive industry

Interested applicants are requested to email or send their comprehensive resumé to:
hr@bmw.com.ph or Human Resources Department
BMW Philippines Corporation, 15/F Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

BMW Philippines
www.bmw.com.ph
Sheer Driving Pleasure

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**GROW** with us!
**STEAG State Power Inc.**
a member of the German STEAG AG group

steag
STEAG state power Inc.

STEAG State Power Inc. (SPI) is a new player in the private power generation industry of the Philippines. SPI is constructing and will operate the much-awaited and timely 210MW Coal Fired Power Plant in Northern Mindanao.

SPI stems from the respected corporate history and technological expertise of STEAG AG, a company with over 60 years experience as one of Germany's leading independent power producers. STEAG's expertise covers advanced power systems design, the construction and operation of highly efficient, reliable and environmentally compatible power plants.

SPI is seeking highly candidates for:

## Technical Office Manager

**Responsibilities:**
The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of the Power Plant Technical Office and will report to the Power Plant Manager.

**Areas of responsibility of the Technical Office Manager will include:**

- ➢ Power plant equipment performance monitoring
- ➢ Energy production and load dispatch
- ➢ Maintenance scheduling
- ➢ Procurement of consumables/equipment/materials
- ➢ Spare parts management
- ➢ Contracts Administration
- ➢ Permitting
- ➢ Technical documentation/electronic data management systems
- ➢ Budget preparation and control

**Requirements:**

- ➢ a licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- ➢ have at least eight (8) years related work experience in coal-fired power plant
- ➢ have wide knowledge of thermal power plant operation
- ➢ have knowledge of power plant maintenance
- ➢ have knowledge of power plant performance tests, commissioning (start up, plant tests)
- ➢ preferably have exposure/experience with IPP (independent power producers)
- ➢ have knowledge of quality control (ASME, API, ANSI codes)
- ➢ possess administrative experience, i.e. team management, staff development and the like
- ➢ possess excellent organizational skills
- ➢ be fluent in English, knowledge of the Visayan dialect is preferred

Please note that the above position is for assignment in the **MISAMIS ORIENTAL** office.

Interested applicants may submit their CVs to:
**STEAG State Power Inc.**
The HR Manager
20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Ave. Cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.
Makati City 1200, Philippines
Via e-mail: careers@steagstatepower.com

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MOTIVATION TOURS&TRAVEL CORPORATION
UNIT G 4 (GROUND FLOOR)
C.C.H BUILDING 136 L.P. LEVISTE ST
(FORMERLY ALFARO ST.) SALCEDO
VILLAGE MAKATI CITY
TEL NOS 812-6051 to 54 FAX NO 893-3465

## WANTED
## 2 RESERVATIONS / TICKETING STAFF

- Preferably female, with 2 years experience and knowledge of Galileo or Abacus Systems

For interested parties, kindly bring with you resumés to the address above

---

## Elite Garments International, Inc.
**owner and manufacturer of established brand names for the local and export market**

freeway | solo | ENSEMBLES | salsa | 22 BC twenty two BC

### MERCHANDISER

- * Loves fashion & knows current trends in ladieswear
- * Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising
- * W/ experience or exposure in store operations & inventory mgmt,w/ strong organizational skills
- * W/ at least 2-3 yrs work experience in retail or merchandising for local market
- * Mature, with leadership capabilities
- * Female, with courses in Fine Arts, Advertising Marketing, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design Management & related courses

### JR. FASHION MERCHANDISER

- * Loves fashion & knows current trends in ladieswear
- * Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising
- * W/ experience or exposure in store operations & inventory mgmt,w/ strong organizational skills
- * W/artistic background,at least 2-3 yrs work experience
- * Mature, with leadership capabilities
- * Female, below 30 yrs. old, w/ courses in Fine Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design Management & related courses

### FASHION DESIGNER

- * Will be involved in design & dev't of men's and ladies teen wear
- * W/ work experience in design or retail preferred
- * Will be involed in product sourcing & sampling
- * W/ strong organizational skills
- * Female, with course/s in Clothing Tech, Fine Arts Fashion Design & related courses
- * Submit portfolio of designs for teen wear w/ resumé.

**Send resume with credentials or fax/e-mail to:**
**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. (HRD)**
**996 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St.(Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila**
**Tels. #525-3593/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71**
**E-mail: maye@elitegarments.com**

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# WANTED IMMEDIATELY!

***A fast-growing export underwear garments manufacturing company & logistics located in Laguna invites qualified personnel to apply for the following positions:***

**INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING MANAGER** – University/College graduate in BS Industrial Engineering; 5 to 10 years solid experience gained from manufacturing garment industries with appropriate qualifications in Industrial Engineering; Experience in project management techniques with good understanding of manufacturing processes gained in a start up situation; Good knowledge of Right First Time processing; good spoken and written English

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** – University/College graduate in Industrial Engineering or production related studies; 10 years solid experience in managing production planning and process of garment manufacturing company preferably in lingerie products; good spoken and written English; computer literate. Less experience shall be considered as ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER.

**QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER** – University graduate; must have at least 6 years solid experience in the same capacity preferably from garment manufacturing set-up; familiar with international quality standard, i.e. AQL 2.5 standard; must possess strong leadership and training skills; work closely with Production Manager to improve the quality level of the products; familiar with quality requirements of U.S. and Europe buyers; excellent spoken and written English; computer literate. Less experience shall be considered as ASSISTANT QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

**PURCHASING MANAGER** – University/College graduate, knowledgeable in material sourcing and purchasing of general administrative items, such as office supplies, maintenance and carpentry materials and others production used materials in manufacturing preferably with 5 years work experience in the same experience in the same capacity; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

**ASST. PPC MANAGER** – University/College graduate. At least 2 years experience in a garment manufacturing firm on Production Planning & Control; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

**PURCHASER** – University/College graduate; knowledge in material sourcing is a must; with 1 year experience in the same position; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

**PPC COORDINATOR** – University/College graduate preferably with experience in Production Planning; Can handle pressure; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

**TRANSLATOR** – University graduate or above; Excellent spoken and written English & Chinese; Can speak fluent Mandarin and Cantonese; Computer literate; with experience as translator preferably.

**SECRETARY** – University / College graduate in Computer Science or Information Technologies; at least 5 years experience in serving senior executives; must be articulate, reliable, has good communication organization skills; excellent in oral and business written English, i.e. Writing minutes, reports, business letters and articles; computer literate is a must, familiar with MS Windows and chart drawing.

**ACCOUNTING CLERK** – Accounting graduate preferably with experience as an Accounting Clerk; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

**INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER** – University/College graduate major in BS Industrial Engineering; 3 to 5 years solid experience in garment industry; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

**MANAGEMENT/PRODUCTION TRAINEE**– University/College graduate can relate with different kind of people and willing to work on job rotation in junior management or production functions; fast learner; computer literate; A.) can speak and write English; B.) can speak and write Chinese preferably Mandarin and Cantonese.

**PRODUCTION COORDINATOR**– University/College graduate preferably Industrial Engineering with production work experience; computer literate; can speak and write English or Chinese

**SEWING SUPERVISOR/ASST. SEWING SUPERVISOR** – University/College graduate. Must have technical knowledge in sewing operation; knowledgeable in sewing line management and balancing is a must; 4-5 years experience as Sewing Supervisor; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

**SEWING LINE LEADER** – High School graduate. Skilled in Sewing handling and methods; knowledgeable in Sewing management and balancing is a must; with 3 years experience as a Sewing Line Leader; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

**SEWING OPERATOR**– can operate computerized sewing machines with good skills.

Candidates apply the above positions must be willing to station in Laguna area. We offer attractive package, please send your resume with 2 photos to Santa Rosa Technopark P.O. Box 39934 attention to Personnel Department or call directly to (049) 5410779 HRD Department for interview arrangement.

---

A Reputable Japanese Trading Company
is in **URGENT** need for a

## FEMALE IN-HOUSE SALES ASSISTANT

with the following qualifications:

- ➢ College graduate
- ➢ Experience in Brokerage and import/export related field would be an advantage
- ➢ Computer Literate
- ➢ Can work under minimal supervision
- ➢ Must be flexible and Hardworking
- ➢ With good oral and written communication skills

Interested applicants may apply in person at the:

**PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**
**Unit 2003, 20th Floor Antel 2000 Building**
**No. 121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village**
**Makati City, Philippines**

**(Please bring your Curriculum Vitaé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo)**

Applicants shall be accommodated from Monday to Friday between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

---

## MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- Male, 30-40 years of age
- With 2 years experience in Heavy Equipment preventive maintenance

Residing w/in 30 minute drive from Novaliches, Q.C.

Qualified applicants may send their Comprehensive resumé and Bio-Data (indicating contact phone number) with their recent photos to the address below:
P.O. BOX 198, Novaliches
E-mail: borland@ultimate.info.com.ph

---

**IMMIGRATE TO CANADA**
**FREE** SEMINARS - Marie Deitz-CSIC Licensed Immigration Consultant - January 02-05, 2006-6 30pm / Rebecca Cruz - February 4, 11, 18 & 25 @10am
**PRIORITY PROCESSING-INVESTORS (3-9 mos)- NOVA SCOTIA** - NETWORTH OF $300K TO $799K,
**QUEBEC, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & SPOUSES, PROVINCIAL NOMINEES (less 1yr process), SKILLED WORKER-U$600 Special Package**
Standard Immigration Services Inc. - Suite 704, 7th flr, Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig; Tel (632)631-4983; Telefax: (632)638-4774

---

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Must be:
Permanent Cavite residence,
Good knowledge Accounting, resourceful,
initiative works, well under stress
Apply at **Metro Cavite Dialysis Ctr**
9073 E. Aguinaldo Hi-way Imus, Cavite

**TeleTech**

# Great Jobs, Global Reach.

## Customer Service Representatives

### Technical or Sales Accounts:

> Preferably a graduate of any 4-year course
> With excellent communication skills in English
> Can interpret technical instructions

### Airline reservations:

> At least six months experience in the airline industry or has any previous sales experience
> Familiar with any airline reservation softwares

call us at

**552.9799***

*CSR positions only

Applicants may come to our TeleTech Offices at:

> Building F, SM Corporate Offices
1000 Bay Boulevard, Bay City, Pasay City

> Levels 1 and 2, Robinsons Place Novaliches,
Maligaya cor Quirino Highway,Quezon City

> Levels 1 and 2, Robinsons Place Cainta,
Ortigas ext., Cainta, Rizal

>UMEE Bldg., Sta. Catalina Street,
Dumaguete City

You are also welcome to visit the following TeleTech Recruitment Centers:

> 4/F PHILCOX Building, 172 Salcedo Street,
Legaspi Village Makati City

> Room 202 Manila Luxury Condominium, Pearl
Drive corner Gold Loop Streets, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City

### Novaliches CMC >>>

Senior Operations Manager
Operations Manager
Business Process Manager
Training and Quality Manager
Workforce Planning Manager
Quality Assurance Manager
Team Leaders
Workforce Supervisor
Workforce Specialist
Accent and Conversational English Supervisor
Accent and Conversational English Trainer
Accent and Conversational English Coach
Reports Analyst
Training and Enterprise Intelligence Group
Training and Quality Supervisor
Training Coordinator

### Fort Bonifacio CMC >>>

Site Director
Workforce Planning Manager

### Dumaguete CMC >>>

HR Generalist
QA Specialist
Trainer
Team Leader

### Pasay City CMC >>>

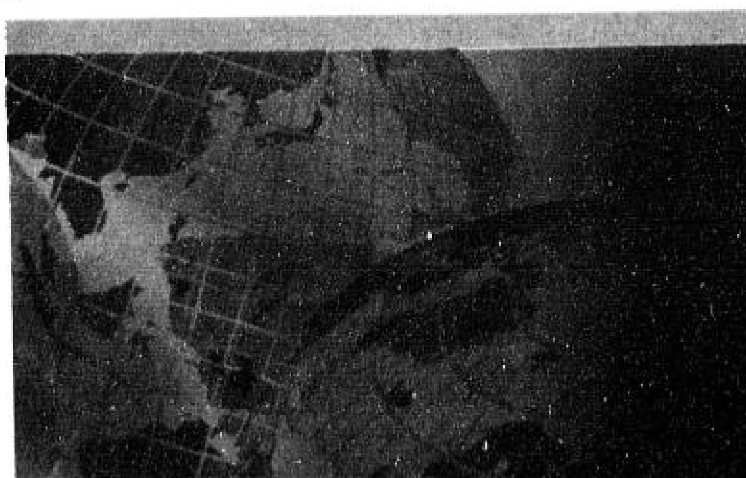
QA Specialist
Workforce Planning Specialist
RTM Specialist
Training and Quality Manager
Accent and Conversational English Trainers
Accent and Conversational English Coaches
Operations Training Representative
(shared services)
Training Coordinator
HR Generalist
HR Assistant
Accounts Payable Analyst
(Spanish/Portuguese Speaking)
Company Nurse
Senior Software Developer
InSite developer
Graphic User Interface Developer
Front End Designer
NOC Engineer

### Cainta CMC >>>

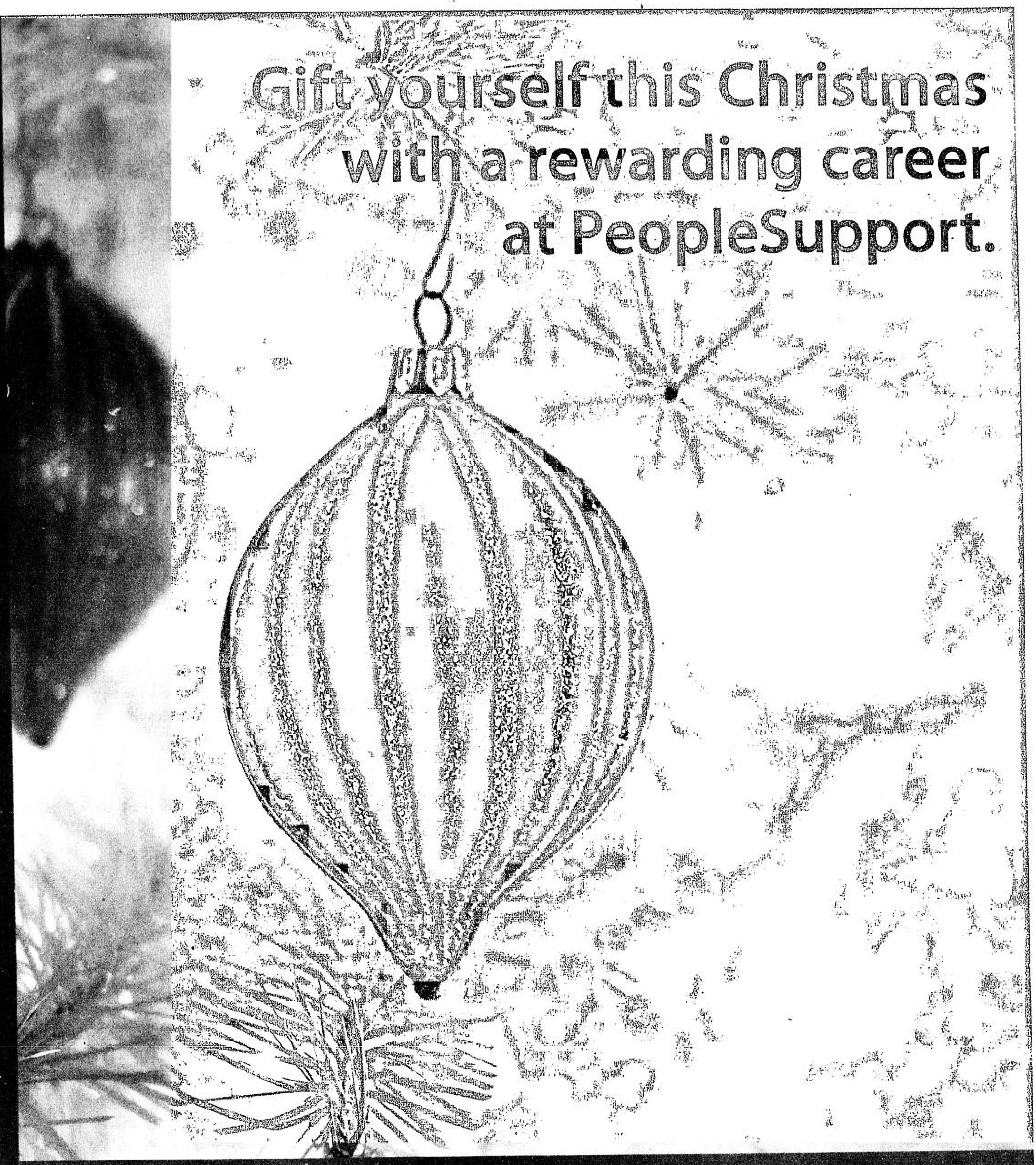
Training Supervisor
Accent & Conversational English Trainers
Accent & Conversational English Language
& Learning Lab Supervisor
Accent & Conversational English
Project Coordinator
Accent & Conversational English Coach
Learning & Development Facilitators
Training Coordinator
Operations Support Center
/Real Time Monitoring Supervisor
Senior IT Desktop Support
Tech support Associate
Site Technology Lead
QA Supervisor
QA Specialist
HR Generalist
HR Coordinator

## Support Roles

**email your resume at**
**hrjobs_ph@teletech.com**



TeleTech is a leading global provider of customer management and transaction-based business process outsourcing solutions. Established in the U.S. 23 years ago, TeleTech is headquartered in Denver, Colorado with a global network that extends across 78 customer management centers in 17 countries across the globe. In 2001, TeleTech began operations in the Philippines and since then, we have built three centers in Fort Bonifacio, Pasay City and Novaliches. We will soon open two centers in Cainta and Dumaguete city. Globally, we support 40,000 employees; more than 4,000 of whom are in the Philippines. Find out more about us at **www.teletech.com**.



# Gift yourself this Christmas with a rewarding career at PeopleSupport.

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR eReps™

Customer Service • Technical Support • Sales • Travel

We offer a premium for contact center experience or Spanish proficiency!

- Excellent English communication skills
- Strong customer service/sales skills
- Problem solving and analytical skills
- Computer and internet proficiency
- Willing to work shifts

**Part-time positions now also available!**

COME TO OUR

## RECRUITMENT OPEN HOUSE

**and GET HIRED IN ONE DAY!**

Also receive a free gift when you apply.

December 12 – 17, 2005, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
**PeopleSupport Center**
Ayala corner Sen Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City

**WIN an iPod mini!**

We have a special raffle for applicants who start on December 19!

## CORPORATE POSITIONS NEEDED

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
Director, Information Technology
CMS Administrator
Telecommunications Engineer
Telecommunications Administrator
Dialer Administrator
Helpdesk Analyst
Database Analyst
Reporting Analyst
Desktop Analyst (Cebu)

**ADMINISTRATION**
Purchasing Director

**HUMAN RESOURCES**
Recruitment Director
Internal Communications Manager
Employee Relations Officer
Recruitment Officers (Manila, Cebu and Davao)
Recruitment Associate (Davao)
Recruitment Assistants (Manila, Cebu and Davao)

**SERVICE DELIVERY**
Program Director
Director, Quality Managment
Forcedesk Manager

**TRAINING**
Training Manager, Leadership Development
University Linkages Program Liaison
Communication Trainers (Manila and Cebu)
Technical Trainer
Course Developer

**SALES**
Business Development Manager
Sales Associate

For corporate applicants, please email your resumé at
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com
For further details, visit our website

www.peoplesupport.com

PEOPLE**SUPPORT**®

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# JOB Market

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005
Philippine Copyright 1995
3 SECTIONS

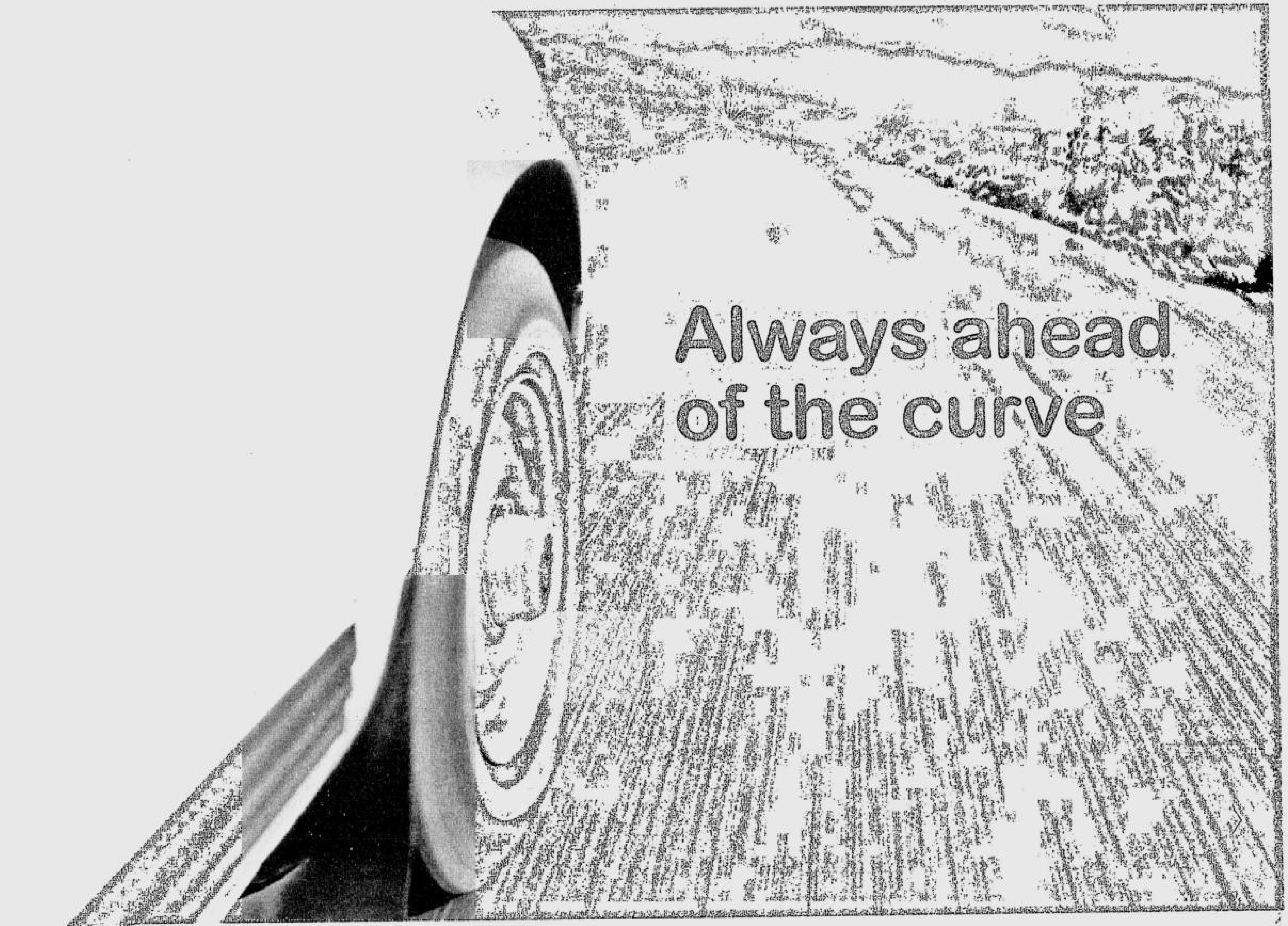
**JOB** *Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
**RATES** (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
**DEADLINES**
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

SECOND SECTION OF JOBMARKET

For jobseekers, log on to: **www.jobmarketonline.com** 1

★★ *Where You Find The Best*

**Text us your feedback:** Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



Delivering on promises. Following through on commitments. On time and with excellence. Again and again. At Dell, the needs of customers and team members are always anticipated, fostering relationships that are based on trust and honesty. Join Dell. Discover what it's like to work with a world class operation that promotes diversity and personal accountability.

Careers at Dell. Consider the possibilities.

## NOW HIRING

- TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGENTS
- QUALITY MANAGEMENT ANALYST
- BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT ANALYST
- ACCOUNTING ANALYST
- RECRUITER

Dell, America's Most Admired Company, is extending its worldwide network of call centers to Metro Manila. We are hiring more than 200 Technical Support Agents to support our global customers who use Dell products for home entertainment and education.

**To apply, visit www.dell.com/manila**
or call us at 728-DELL for details
or visit us at our Recruiting Center: 27/F Tower 2, RCBC Bldg. 6819 Ayala Ave. Corner Senator Gil Puyat Ave

DELL™
Consider the possibilities

**West Contact Services, Inc.**, a subsidiary of US-based West Corporation with several contact centers located throughout North America, Europe and Asia, is looking for dynamic, self-motivated and results-driven individuals.

## NOW HIRING!

**Technical Support Reps**
(Immediate openings!)

- Customer Service Reps
- Teleservices Reps
- Operations Managers
- Performance Assessment Specialists
- Production Team Leaders
- Trainers

Excellent English oral and written communication skills required.

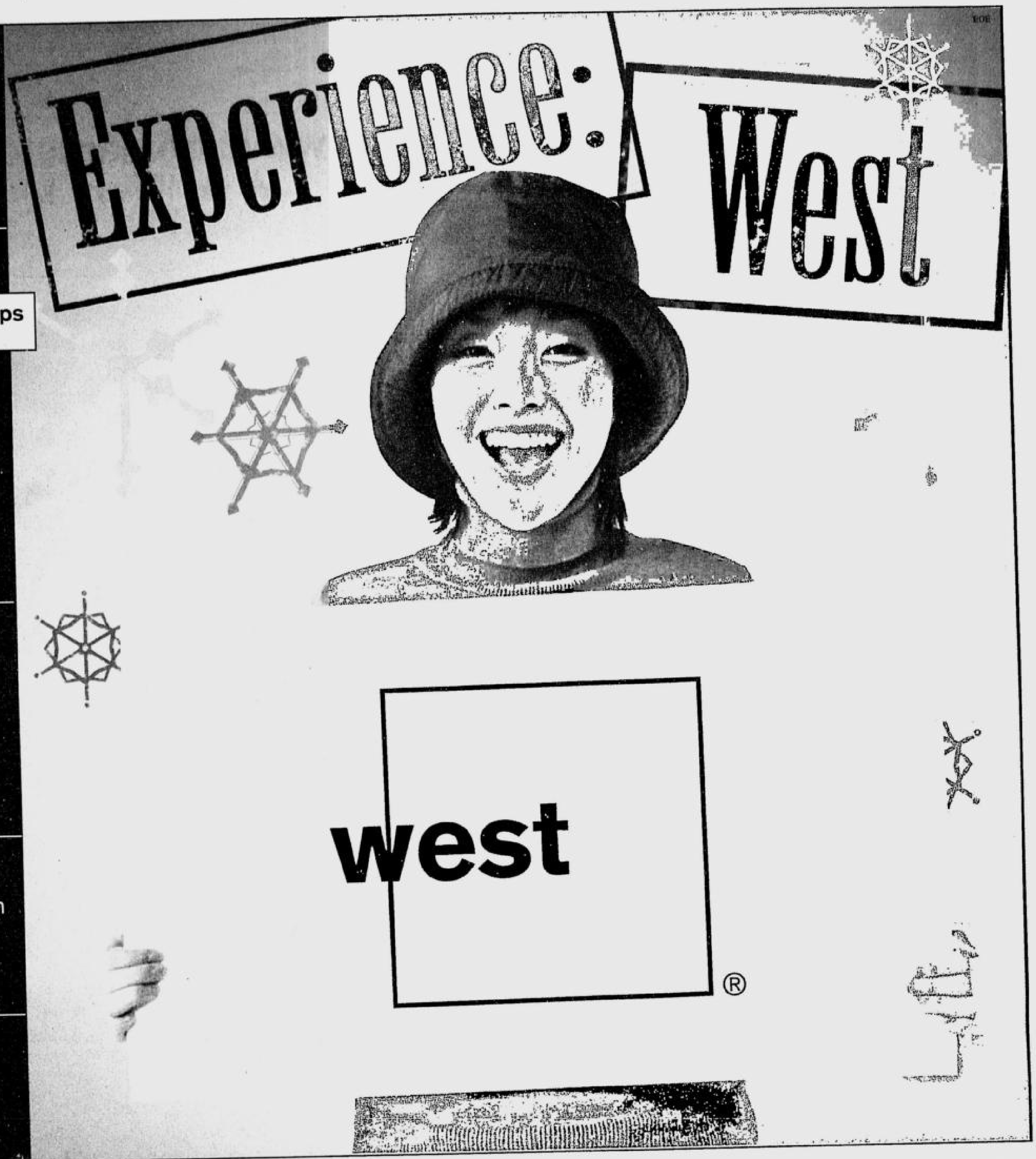
## Why choose West?

- Competitive pay
- Choose your own schedule; flexible full- and part-time opportunities
- Excellent advancement opportunities
- Fun work environment

## Apply Now:
westemployment.com

West Contact Services Inc.
28/F Exportbank Plaza
Don Chino Roces cor Sen.
Gil Puyat, Makati

Phone: 857-7400
Fax: 857-7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com



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**Rustan Marketing Corporation**

Is in immediate need of top caliber individuals.....

## BRAND MANAGER

- Female; between 26-35 years old; pleasing personality
- Degree in Business, preferably Marketing or Economics
- With at least two (2) years experience in product management and development of consumer products in a managerial capacity
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be computer literate

## CORPORATE SALES MANAGER

- Female; between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course
- Preferably with experience in a direct/retail selling environment
- Preferably with experience in distributing consumer products
- Creative and with excellent communications skills
- Must possess a pleasing, aggressive and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND OR E-MAIL IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

**Rustan Marketing Corporation**
Human Resource Management Division
(C/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: embaysa@rgoc.com.ph

***(We will reply to qualified applicants only)***

---

Roche

Pharmaceuticals

### Who we are

Founded in 1896 in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is an innovation-driven global healthcare leader dedicated to the discovery, research, production and marketing of high quality healthcare products. Consistently categorized among the top corporations in the country, Roche has been successfully operating in the Philippines for over 40 years.

## *Programmer*

*(Application Code: PROG)*

The main responsibility is to maintain the system database and territory settings required for the ETMS (Electronic Territory Management System) and assist the IT Manager in maintaining necessary systems to support business operations and management decisions. To qualify, you must be a graduate of BS Computer Science or any similar 4-year course with good academic record; must have at least 3 years experience in programming with SQL and Visual Basic; at least 2 years networking skills and knowledgeable in Windows XP. The ideal candidate must have above average communications skills, must be a good team player, flexible and can work with minimum supervision.

## *Clinical Research Associate*

*(Application Code: CRA)*

The main responsibilities include monitoring of assigned local clinical studies in accordance with company Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), International Conference on Harmonization Good Clinical Practice standard (ICH-GCP) and local operating procedures (LOGs); supporting local management as well as global Pharma Development Operations. To qualify, you must be a graduate of BS Nursing, BS Pharmacy, BS Public Health or BS Medical Technology with good academic record; must have at least 1 year experience in on-site clinical research monitoring, particularly involving drug trials. The ideal candidate must have excellent communications and interpersonal skills, knowledgeable in MS Word, Excel, Outlook and Power Point; flexible and practices effective self-management.

### How to Apply

Due to the urgency of these requirements, please submit your resumé with recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than ***Friday, 15 December 2005*** to:

**The Human Resources Department – Application Code________**
**Roche (Philippines) Inc.**
**2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City.**

***Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.***

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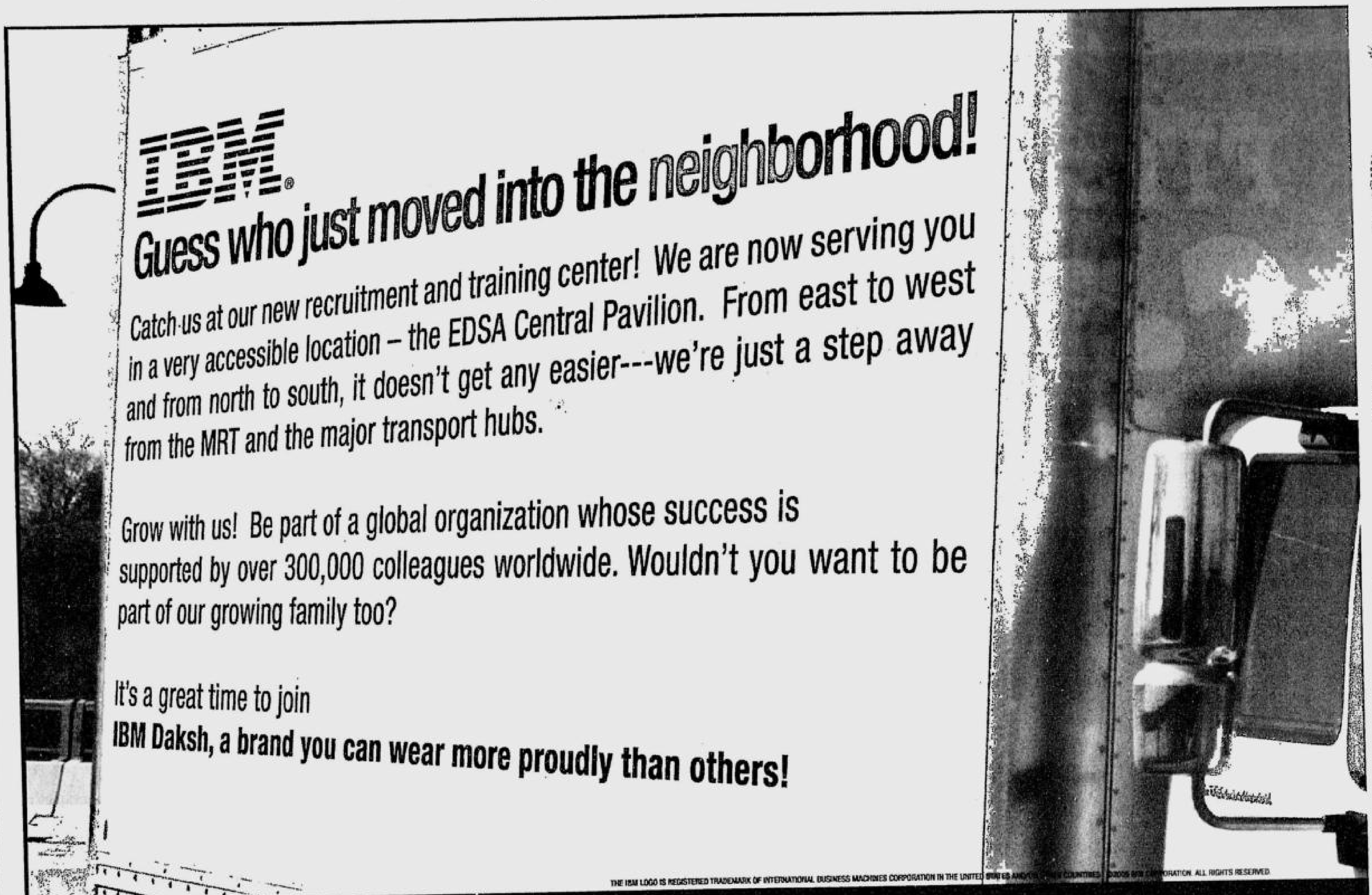

# IBM.

## Guess who just moved into the neighborhood!

Catch us at our new recruitment and training center! We are now serving you in a very accessible location – the EDSA Central Pavilion. From east to west and from north to south, it doesn't get any easier---we're just a step away from the MRT and the major transport hubs.

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## IBM DAKSH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INC.

**Now hiring young, ambitious graduates to fortify the newest IBM network in Southeast Asia!**

Customer Care Specialists for Fortune 500 Companies

- Telecommunications (Voice Support)
- Travel (Voice Support)
- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Voice/Email Support)
  - HR Functions (Speaks Thai)
- Australian Query Management Account

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any Bachelor's degree
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Support & Leadership Posts

- Operations Manager
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- Quality Assurance Specialists
- Quality Consultant (speaks Thai)
- Data Network Specialists
- Voice Network Specialists
- Systems Administrators
- Implementation Manager
- Deputy Manager - Sourcing

Call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

**You can now visit us at our new Recruitment and Training Center!!**

3/F Edsa Central Pavilion Edsa cor. Shaw
Boulevard Mandaluyong City

Mondays to Fridays 9 AM - 8 PM
Saturdays 9 AM - 6 PM

Call our Recruitment Hotline:
**840-6020**
or email your resume to:
**applications@daksh.com.ph**

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*The Philippines' #1 Immigration Consultant*

**What's the *best gift* you can give your family *for Christmas?***

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A gift more valuable than anything money can buy
A gift worth millions of pesos for all the members of your family.
A gift that keeps on giving forever.

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8526238 / 8798209 / 8790308 / 8790218 /8790203 / 8790214
8526403 / 8798398 / 8793118 / 8798498 / 8790217 /8790215
8790307 / 8525814 / 8525815 / 8793116 / 8793119 / 8790309
Email: inquiry@go2canada.com

**GALLERIA**
Unit 1201 Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Q.C.
Phone: 6875931 / 6875932 / 6875934 / 6875935 / 6875936
6871049 / 6875937 / 6875461 / 8798334 / 8790309 / 8793118
8790313 / 8798209 / 8798398
Email: galleria@go2canada.com

**BACLARAN**
2030 GG Cruz St., cor. Aguara St., Baclaran, Paranaque
Phone: 8546725-27 / 8516873 / 5517989 / 8798334
Email: baclaran@go2canada.com

**CUBAO**
9-U/GF Dona Consolacion Bldg.,
Gen. Rosas St., Araneta Center, Cubao
Phone: 913-5243 / 913-5685 / 913-5304 / 913-5289
913-5352 / 913-5683
Email: cubao@go2canada.com

**MAKATI CITY**
Unit 403 Peninsula Court Paseo de Roxas, Makati
Phone: 7517143 / 7517136 / 7517137
7517139 / 7517140
Email: makati@go2canada.com

**QUEZON CITY**
Unit 202 Pacific Corporate Center
131 West Avenue, Quezon City
Phone: 376-3356 / 376-2972 / 376-2565 / ,376-2925
Email: westavenue@go2canada.com

**ALABANG**
5/F Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal
Business Park, Alabang-Zapote Road, Ayala Alabang
Phone: 8793116-18 / 8790309 / 8525814
8007679 / 0917-8077761 / 0916-4537679
Email: alabang@go2canada.com

**MALATE**
Suite 34, 2/F Midland Plaza Condominium
M. Adriatico St., Ermita, Manila
Phone. 5226400 / 5220430
Email. malate@go2canada.com

**BAGUIO CITY**
Level 3 Unit 10, Pellsloy Centrum, 22 & 24 Session Rd.,
Baguio City near Morin Marketing Corporation
Phone: (074) 4470180 / 3044414
Email: baguio@go2canada.com

**SM City Baguio Branch**
2F Rm 201 SM City Baguio
Luneta Hill, Baguio City
Phone: (074) 446 7999 / 9801 / 9802

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**
4th Executive Rm. Egmadio Bldg.,
Corrales Ave., Cagayan de Oro City
Phone: (088) 22726716
Email: cagayandeoro@go2canada.com

**CEBU CITY**
Suite 1204 Keppel Center, Samar Loop cor.
Cardinal Rosales Ave., Business Park, Cebu City
Phone (032) 2340111
Email: cebu@go2canada.com

**DAGUPAN CITY**
G/F Floren Hotel, Rizal St. Dagupan City
Phone: (075) 5158155 / 0920-5816431 / 0917-9077761
Email: dagupan@go2canada.com

**DAVAO CITY**
107 GF Goldwin Bldg., Quirino Ave., Davao City
Phone: (082) 2225183 / 3051714 • Fax: (082) 3051081
Email: davao@go2canada.com

**DUMAGUETE CITY**
89 Corner Real and San Juan Streets, Dumaguete City
Phone: (035) 4220808
Email: dumaguete@go2canada.com

**ILOILO CITY**
Rm. 404 - 4th floor, Perpetual Succour
Business Center, Jalandoni St., Iloilo City
Phone (033) 5090811
Email: iloilo@go2canada.com

**NAGA CITY**
3/F Bichara Theater Mall Gen. Luna St., Naga City
Phone: (054) 4726512 / 4726510 / (02) 8790144
Email: naga@go2canada.com

### FREE SEMINARS & ASSESSMENT

METRO MANILA OFFICES

- **Uniwide Coastal Mall, Parañaque City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
- **Alabang - Wednesdays @ 6PM** - See contact details above.
- **Baclaran - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
- **Cubao - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
- **Malate - Mondays to Saturdays @ 10AM & 2PM** - See contact details above.
- **Makati City - Monday to Thursday @ 8AM - 9PM** - See contact details above.
- **Robinson's Galleria - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
- **West Avenue, Quezon City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM, 5PM** - See contact details above.

### PROVINCIAL SEMINARS

- **NAGA CITY - Wed @ 10AM, 2PM & 5PM / Sat @ 10AM & 2PM** - See contact details above.
- **DAGUPAN CITY - Daily @ 10AM & 2PM - FREE** Seminar & Assessment - See contact details above
- **December 11 - VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR @ 10AM** - #1 Mena Crisologo St. Vigan Ilocos Sur [Call Ms Gemma (077) 722-2383 | Ms Susan 0919 353-9491 | Ms Beng 0919.3559511
- **December 11 - NUEVA VISCAYA @ 2PM** - Bread 'n' Bites - National Highway Solano Nueva Viscaya [Call Tina (078) 636-3397 | Gold Vinarao 879-0217 / 0916.749-6320]
- **December 17 - ANGELES CITY @4PM** - Marlim Mansions - Mc Arthur Hi-way, Balibago [Call Lani Andrada (045) 322-2002 | Susie (02) 879-0218 | 0918.939-0865]
- **December 17 -LIGTASAN, TARLAC CITY @ 9AM** - La Maja Rica Hotel Mc Arthur Hiway, Ligtasan, Tarlac [Call Angie Paminiuan (045) 611-2051 to 2053 | Grace Antiojo (02) 879.8306]
- **December 17 - LIPA CITY, BATANGAS @ 9AM** - Max's Restaurant-Pres. Laurel Hiway, Pilahan Sabang [Call Susan (02) 879-0313 / 0919.353-9491 | Emily (02) 879.0311 / 0916.601-7891]
- **December 17 - ILAGAN, ISABELA @ 2pm** - Marja Hotel, San Vicente, Ilagan Isabela [Call Mrs. Boby Neyra 0917.574-2587 | Ms. Gold 0916.7490320 / (02) 879-0217
- **December 18 - URDANETA, PANGASINAN @2PM** - Majoha Hotel & Rest. Mc. Arthur Highway, Nancayasan [Call Baby/Sidney Magiague (075) 568-2640 / 0919 740-4538 / (075) 568-0588 / (02) 879-0301]
- **December 18 SANTIAGO, ISABELA @ 2PM** - King George Hotel, Bonifacio Ave. Cor. Maharlika Highway Victory Norte Santiago City [Call Front Desk (078) 682.5508 | Gold (02) 879 0217 / 0916.749.6320]

**"Don't let yourself be misrepresented. Transact only with authorized CIC Consultants."**

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If you want a career where your creative juices flow, in an environment both fun and exciting, then you're what we're looking for!

We're searching for a **Creative Group Head** who will help lead a team in creating breakthrough communications ideas; a **Copywriter** who can generate selling, compelling concepts; a **Designer** with experience in trad and non-trad advertising; an **Account Manager** who will take charge of growing the business; a **Print Producer** with both creative and managerial skills; and an **Executive Assistant/Coordinator** who will liaison for the Executive Office, to be part of our small but powerful team. Positions must be filled up by January 2006.

Interested applicants may e-mail their resumes and portfolios to **careeropp@inbox.com**.

---

## URGENTLY NEEDED

# FAMILY DRIVER

- Male, 30-35 years old with professional driver's license.
- Presentable looking.
- Good moral character.
- Can give references.
- Has driven both manual and automatic transmission vehicles.
- Willing to stay-in.
- Must be physically fit and in very good health.
- Must be a NON-SMOKER.
- Must be familiar with Metro Manila streets.
- Can do car maintenance and troubleshooting repairs.
- Those who have worked abroad need not apply.

❖ **For the qualified applicant, we offer a salary of P10,500.00 a month with free meals.**

*Apply PERSONALLY with Bio-data, photo and references to:*

**THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER**
**80 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

❖ **PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.**

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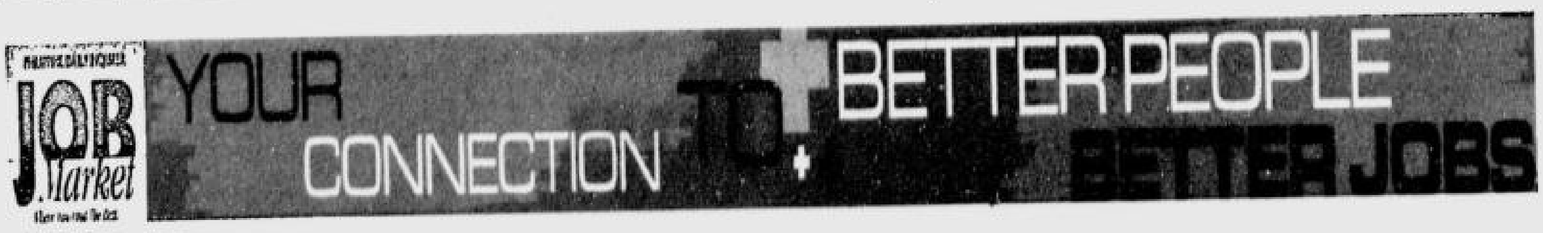

FITS ALL
SIZES

ICT Group, one of the fastest growing call centers in the Philippines, in cooperation with the City of Marikina, present "Fits All Sizes". A two-day Job Convention in BOILER, RIVERBANKS.

Be there on December 17 & 18, 2005 at exactly 8 AM and bring your most updated resumé.

Call our RECRUITMENT HOTLINE for more details 8570308-10

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**We are continuously hiring Full-time Customer Service Representatives for our Makati and Ortigas sites.**

ICT GROUP

Please visit our Recruitment Center
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Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center Pasig
from Mondays thru Fridays, 9am to 5pm
or send your resumé to
recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com

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*A leading business organization invites applicants for the following vacant positions in its Secretariat:*

**TRAINING MANAGER**: 2-3 years exposure on the various facets of the training cycle, especially in the conceptualization and design of training modules; excellent coordination and facilitation skills; proficient in oral and written communication; computer-literate.

**TRAINING SPECIALIST**: familiar with the training cycle; exposure on events management; good communication skills; hands-on experience in the development of marketing strategies and tools; computer-literate.

**RESEARCH SPECIALIST**: familiar with research methodologies and tools; working knowledge of economic and political theories; proficient in oral and written communication; computer-literate.

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT STAFF- PROJECT MANAGER, ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE OFFICER, RH/FP SPECIALIST**: exposure to development projects; relevant skills and experience; good communication skills; computer-literate.

**EVENTS MANAGEMENT STAFF- CONFERENCE MANAGER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, MARKETING ASSISTANTS**: experience in events management; familiarity with marketing strategies and tools; good network; proficient in written and oral communication; willingness to accept project-based employment for 3-4 months.

*Interested applicants may send their application letters and resumes, indicating the position applied for to secretariat@ecop.org.ph not later than December 30. Only qualified candidates will be invited for an interview.*

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UNIWELL TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

Specialist in Automation Controls & Instrumentation

Pioneer distributor of: Honeywell

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**For Bldg Automation, HVAC Controls, Fire Alarm & Security Systems**

Graduate engineer with outgoing personality, fluent in oral & written English with at least 3 years selling experience and 1 year or more in a supervisory capacity with good track record covering equipment and/or systems for commercial bldgs. Selling experience on bldg. automation, fire alarm & security systems will be an advantage. Preferably with established contact with electrical & mechanical consultants, work managers, architects & developers.

*We offer competitive compensation package with incentives & other fringe benefits commensurate to qualifications & experience with opportunities for advancement.*

*Interested applicants may send their application letter, resumé, copy of transcript of records & recent ID photo to:*

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611 Shaw Blvd., Wack-Wack Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City 1554
or e-mail at: uniwell@info.com.ph

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## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

## SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGER

- Male/Female, 30-45 years old.
- Preferably graduate of Industrial Engineering or related course.
- Must have previous experience handling Supply Chain Management in a managerial level.
- Must have strong background on production planning and project management gained from a manufacturing environment.
- With excellent communication and leadership skills.

*Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications.*

Pls. email your resume, photo, and references to:
ebmuscat@motolite.com

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## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

## SENIOR TAX SPECIALISTS (SUPERVISOR / MANAGER)

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old.
- CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
- With minimum of 5 years work experience handling tax compliance preferably in an audit consultancy or law firm.
- With adequate English communication skills (oral and written).

*Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications.*
Pls. email your resumé, photo, and references to:

ebmuscat@motolite.com

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### WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

### DIRECT HIRING

**A) PROJECT MANAGERS:**
- Licensed Civil Engineer or Architect
- Minimum of ten (10) years experience in Vertical/Medium Rise Construction
- Effective Managerial Skills
- Proficient in computer (CAD knowledge preferred)
- 30-45 yrs. of age
- Good Moral Chracter
- Willing to be assigned to out-of-town places

**B) SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEERS/ ARCHITECTS:**
- Licensed Civil Engineer/Architect
- With 5 years experience in Vertical/ Medium Rise Construction
- Proficient in Computer (CAD knowledge preferred)
- Not over 35 years old
- Good Moral Character
- Willing to be assigned to out-of-town places

**C) COST ENGINEERS:**
- Licensed Civil Engineer or Architect
- Minimum of three (3) years' experience in Quantity Surveying
- Knowledge in CAD is a must (Primavera knowledge preferred)
- Must not be over 35 years of age
- Good Moral Chracter
- Willing to be assigned to out-of-town places

**D) AUTOCADD OPERATORS:**
- Hardworking
- Not over 35 years old
- Good Moral character
- Willing to be assigned to out of town places

Interested applicants may send their resumé to:
METRO STONERICH CORPORATION
#85 Timog Avenue, South Triangle
Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 920-1203; 920-1045

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**SALES EXECUTIVE ASSISTANCE** - With experience in janitorial services

**JANITORIAL/MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR** - With experience in janitorial/maintenance, For Manila and San Pedro Laguna

**ELECTRICIAN** - With experience in industrial plant, Residing at Manila & San Pedro Laguna

**AUTO-CADD OPERATOR** - With experience, preferably Engineering/Architectural graduate or any related course, with good written communication, For San Pedro Laguna

**JANITOR** - High school graduate, For Manila & San Pedro Laguna

**MECHANIC** - Automotive graduate, with experience, For San Pedro Laguna

**INSTALLER** - Computer technician graduate, For Manila, Makati & Cubao

**INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING** - With work experience, preferably Industrial Engineering graduate or any related course, For San Pedro Laguna

Interested applicants may submit personally their credential at
DIMENSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION
101 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes
Parañaque City
Tel. # 826-90-21 to 20 look for Ms. Nora Dumpit or Ms. Inah Gerona

INQUIRER
JOB Market

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005
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3 SECTIONS

JOB Market is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

THIRD SECTION OF JOBMARKET PEOPLE AT WORK ON PAGES 6 & 7

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# 2 DAY JOB FAIR

## @ 5/F ELJ Bldg. ABS-CBN Cmpd.

## December 13 & 14, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM

Reaching the top
will never be hard again
with NCO GROUP

# CALL CENTER AGENTS

## Job Offers Will Be Given to Successful Candidates Within The Day

Requirements:
- Excellent Communication Skills
- Outstanding Customer Service Skills

- **Php 15,000-18,000 BASE RATE**
- **Php 5, 000 UPON REGULARIZATION**
- **Premium for SALES EXPERIENCED AGENTS**
- **20% Night Differential**
- **Free Meal**
- **Paid Training**
- **Performance-based bonuses**
- **Open door policy**
- **Fun, comfortable and professional environment**
- **Medical and Life Insurance**
- **Fast Career movements**
- **Out of town teambuilding activities**

NCO GROUP
RMH

5TH Floor, ELJ Communications Center,
Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City

## URGENT POSITIONS TO START on DECEMBER 19

## CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS
## CUSTOMER SALES AGENTS

**Other Positions Available:**

**OPERATIONS**
- Directory Assistance Agents
- Telemarketing Agents
- Technical Support Agents
- Customer Service Agents (part-time positions available)

**MANAGEMENT**
- Technical Support Team Manager
- Technical Support Operations Manager

**SUPPORT GROUP**
- Administrative Assistant
- Recruitment Assistant
- Student-Trainees
- Company Doctor
- Reports Analyst

**Email Us at:**
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**Call Us at:**
**981-7558 - 60**

NCO is the industry leader in providing clients with successful business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions. Our outsourcing portfolio includes accounts receivable management, customer management services, and back office services for a diversified customer base. Since NCO's inception in 1926, our goal has remained constant — to reduce client operating expenses, increase cash flow, and improve their customers' experience. Our best-in-class, results-driven reputation, strong financial track record, and proven business model makes NCO the choice for BPO solutions.

## As we are continuing our aggressive agent hiring for the 2006 business expansion, we are also in urgent need of the following:

### MANILA CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

**IT PROJECT LEADS**

The candidate will be responsible for providing support to new program implementations, working with the business units to improve operations, decrease turn around time, streamline work processes as well as working cooperatively to provide quality seamless customer service.

**SENIOR APPLICATIONS DEVELOPERS**

The candidates will be responsible for implementing challenging CRM/DataWarehousing development projects in a call center environment with significant interaction with US based customers.

**IT HELPDESK ASSOCIATES**

The candidate will be responsible for providing technical support via phone or e-mail to end-users and client contacts, inclusive of responding to IT infrastructure and application-related issues and providing feedback to end-user and management.

**ID ADMINISTRATORS/SECURITY OFFICERS**

The candidate will be responsible for conducting security compliance audits on operations, orientations on security and proper handling of user accounts to new employees joining programs as well as coordinating with clients and their technology partners in administration of IDs (acquisition, password reset, troubleshooting, etc.)

**MULTILINGUAL REPRESENTATIVES**
**(Spanish, Dutch, Italian or Japanese)**

The candidate will be mainly responsible for providing world class customer service to customers who only speak one of the languages above.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSOCIATES**

The candidate will be responsible for ensuring that quality & efficiency standards are met through monitoring & evaluating calls based on a set of specific criteria.

### CEBU CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

**TELECOMS SPECIALISTS LEVEL II**

The candidate will be responsible for telecom system installation, testing, maintenance, hardware testing and specialist-level telecom support. The position will also entail coordinating activities of equipment and line vendors and maintaining internal systems to assure that telecom system components are operational.

**SPANISH MULTILINGUAL REPRESENTATIVES**

The candidate will be mainly responsible for providing world class customer service to Spanish speaking customers.

**RECRUITING SPECIALISTS**

The candidate will be mainly responsible for ensuring the timely recruitment of staff including, but not limited to, active sourcing of applicants, conduct phone interviews, test administration, evaluation and scoring, and records management.

**RECRUITING TEAM LEADER**

The candidate will be mainly responsible for effectively supervising the recruitment staff to ensure productivity and efficiency in meeting hiring requirements and at the same time will conduct interviews and other recruitment processes.

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*The world's most-awarded call center*
**Call our recruiting hotlines:**
**(Mla) 580-6530 • Cebu (032) 411-9030**
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## SM SUPERMALLS
## OPENING IN 2006

**MALL OF ASIA•STA. ROSA•CLARK•LIPA CITY•BACOLOD**

**If you are residents of Metro Manila, Pasay City, Laguna, Pampanga, Batangas, and Bacolod who want to build a career with us, then take the challenge and grow with us.**

**We are looking for success-driven individuals who thrive in a high performing and dynamic organization. Take this opportunity and be part of the country's leading shopping center...JOIN US!!!**

### ASST./MALL MANAGERS

- With extensive managerial experience in the areas of mall operations, building administration, property and facilities management, tenant relations and customer service, safety and security
- Graduates of Business Management, Engineering, or Marketing
- Must possess excellent interpersonal skills, balanced by high level of professionalism
- Entrepreneural, tenacious, stickler for details and with excellent organization and communication skills
- Proactive and with good sense of judgment

### ACCOUNTING MANAGERS

- Certified Public Accountants
- With managerial experience in all facets of general accounting functions, payout systems and procedures, internal control procedures or auditing management
- Knowledge in Oracle is an added advantage
- With demonstrated ability to work effectively under pressure and meet tight report deadline
- Analytical, tenacious and willing to work long hours

### CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE MANAGER

- With managerial experience in security/safety operations and enforcement of mall rules and government laws, preferably gained in a mall/retail business enterprise
- Graduates of Criminology or any four-year course
- With working knowledge in business management and human behaviour
- 5'6" in height for male and 5'2" in height for female
- Must possess keen investigative, negotiation, and interpersonal skills
- With excellent communication skills; able to prepare effective written reports
- With good sense of judgment, confident, smart and tenacious
- Willing to work on shifting schedule

Interested applicants may send resumé with 2" x 2" recent ID picture:
**Sr. Assistant Vice President - Human Resources**
**SHOPPING CENTER MANAGEMENT CORPORATION**
SM Corporate Offices, Bldg. B, 1000 Bay Boulevard
SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City
Or e-mail to jmm@smsupermalls.com

---

JOB Market Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

---

**A General Contractor,**
**is in urgent need of an**
## ARCHITECT or CIVIL ENGINEER
**with the following qualifications:**

- ➩ Male or Female, not more than 33 years old
- ➩ Graduate of BS Architecture or Civil Engineering and with **License**
- ➩ With at least two (2) years related work experience
- ➩ Knowledgeable and can operate CADD
- ➩ Can create Architectural shop drawing base on design drawing
- ➩ Familiar with Japanese style architectural drawing
- ➩ Willing to travel or be assigned abroad

*Please submit resumé and credentials to:*

**TOBISHIMA PHILS., INC.,**
Unit 2A & B Classica Condominium, #112 H.V.
Dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City
or email to: tobi_eng@pldtdsl.net

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**PLJL MANPOWER EXPORTER**
5470 BOYLE ST., PALANAN, MAKATI CITY
8322552 – 8334454
email: pljl_manpower_exporter@yahoo.com

## Accredited job vacancies for immediate deployment in Saudi Arabia

RAJEH H. AL-MARRI AND SON CO. FOR TRADING & CONTG. / ACCRE. NO. 72126 / ABQAIQ, KSA

4 CIVIL ENGR. – or pipe and road construction, planner and scheduler with primavera exp., land surveyor using total station instrument, QA/QC
14 CONSTRUCTION MECHANICAL ENGR. – QA/QC with knowledge in Cost or Quantity Survey for road and Pipe Project
10 TECHNICIAN WELDER
7 INDUSTRIAL TECHNICIAN
28 PIPE GENERAL WELDER

AL ROBAYA EST. FOR CONTG. / ACCRE NO. 74990 / ABQAIQ, KSA

2 PROJECT MECHANICAL ENGR.
5 INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN
11 PIPE FABRICATOR – with knowledge in Pipe Filter
10 INDUSTRIAL TECHNICIAN

AL JUMAI CONTG. EST. / ACCRE. NO. 74681 / AL-KHOBAR KSA

2 PROJECT MECHANICAL ENGR. – with full knowledge in operating Crane and Side Boom
1 HEAVY TRUCK MECHANIC – Exp. in gear Box and Electron tech. for hydraulic Heavy Equipment

BRING ALL PERTINENT REQUIREMENTS ACCORDING TO POSITION APPLIED FOR.

**License number: 522-LB-042104-R
** Minimum 3 yrs experience for all positions
** MAG-INGAT SA MGA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS
THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA

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## H K R EQUIPMENT CORPORATION

A major commercial kitchen equipment supplier to the biggest names in the fast food and hotel industries, needs a qualified:

### ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS

Male or Female, not more than 26 years old, Graduate of B. S. Accountancy; preferably with 1 to 2 years of accounting work experience but fresh graduates are welcome; honest, aggressive & industrious; can work with minimum supervision.

### SALES ENGINEER

Male, 23-30 yrs. old, graduate of any course; at least 1-2 years of corporate and institutional selling experience (fresh graduates are welcome); fluent in oral and written English; computer literate; organized and detail-oriented; with excellent interpersonal skills; holds a valid driver's license.

Please send your resumé and recent 2x2 photograph to:
Maricel Kho (mfkho@hkr.com.ph) or
Fatima Peñaflorida (frpenaflorida@hkr.com.ph)

HKR Building, 9705 Kamagong St.,
San Antonio Village, Makati City,
Telephone no. 897-1569

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## ecstudio

e c studio specializing in innovative restaurant and retail design is seeking young, dynamic, highly motivated and energetic individual to fill its personnel requirements of:

### Senior Designer/Detailer

BS Architecture or Interior Design graduate, should be well-experienced in high-end restaurant, commercial and residential design, can handle pressure and can work with minimum supervision

proficiency in working drawings and detailing is a must computer literate, has working knowledge of Autocadd 2005, Adobe Photoshop ACS, and Manual Rendering skills required

knowledge of 3D Modeling Programs, Auto Desk Viz, and overseas experience is a plus.

Good salary and benefits await the successful candidate. Kindly fax or e-mail your resumé to:

e c studio
Fax No. 632 637 2040
E-mail: nedioapua@ecstudio.com.ph

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**MACHINEBANKS' CORPORATION**
www.machinebanks.com

- Machine Tools
- Cutting Tools
- Toolings
- Industrial Equip.

Established since 1968 serving our country's growing industries with Sales and Service of top quality equipments. For our on-going project, we are inviting qualified & energetic individuals to fill in the following positions:

*** SALES REPRESENTATIVES**

*** SERVICE TECHNICIANS / ENGINEERS**

The chosen candidates can look forward to a competitive compensation package.

Interested parties may submit their resumés with 2 x 2 photo (taken within 6 months) to:

Machinebanks' Corporation
P.O. Box 1519, Manila
or
jobs@machinebanks.com

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KITAMURA
KITO
Mitutoyo
MORI SEIKI
Noritake
Okamoto
Sodick
WAIDA

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INDUSTRIAL CONTROLS SYSTEMS INC (ICON) is a marketing organization engage in the sales and services of various instrumentation and industrial products. Currently, we are the authorized agent of Rotork and Flowserve Flow Control Division Products in the Philippines.

Our major client includes power plants, water & sewerage, oil & gas industry and geothermal plant.

### SALES ENGINEER / SALES EXECUTIVE

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be Electrical or Mechanical Engineer
- With at least 2 years experience
- Must possess knowledge of all basic instrumentation, electrical, electronic and mechanical.
- Have the willingness to take on challenges and have the ability to work effectively as part of a small but experienced team.
- Must be computer literate.

Applicants may send resumé to email address:
Relopez.icon@i-manila.com.ph
or call telephone numbers: 781-66-24 or 743-15-51

**Teleperformance**
GLOBAL CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

**BI-LINGUAL CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES**
Fluent in Spanish and English verbal and written communication skills; prior call center experience is an advantage

**CALL CENTER AGENTS (Part-time / Full time)**
At least second year college / graduate of any course; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in various shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum of 25wpm)

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES**
Experience with accounting applications and software support is a must; accounting knowledge is a plus

**CALL CENTER MANAGER**
At least five (5) years call center experience; assistant call center manager level or higher current or previous experience; strong motivational skills; extremely personable

**ASSISTANT CENTER MANAGER**
One (1) - Three (3) years managerial position in a call center; account management experience and client coordination skills preferably in an existing assistant manager position; should have experience handling at least one hundred (100) agents at a time

**SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS**
**(Technical and Customer Service account)**
Must have at least six (6) months - one (1) year supervisory experience in a call center; must be an extrovert and must have an energetic personality; ability to multi-task; good time management skill

**MISSION CONTROL ANALYSTS**
Six (6) months customer service experience; one (1) year call center experience; ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines; demonstrated leadership skills, dependability and initiative; flexible schedule

**DATABASE PROGRAMMER**
Very knowledgeable in Microsoft SQL Server, Crystal reports, MySQL, Visual Basic, Linux, Apache and Scripting languages; experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client Server environment

**QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR**
College graduate; must have two (2) years supervisory experience, at least one of which should be in Operations

All positions require excellent verbal and written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer

www.teleperformance.ph

careers@teleperformance.ph
(please indicate the position in the subject field)

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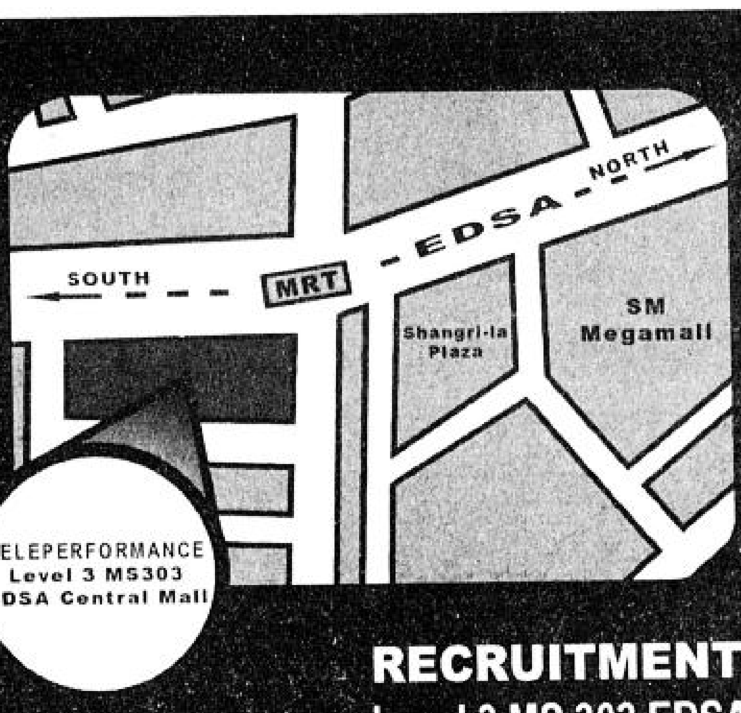

Recruiting schedule
Monday - Saturday
8:00am - 5:00pm

**RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT**
Level 3 MS 303 EDSA Central Mall
Mandaluyong City
Hotline: (02) 637-7111

http://www.jobstreet.com/ph/teleperformance.htm

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## EMPLOYMENT HIRING

**ACCOUNTING CLERK/BOOKKEEPING**
**IMPORT/EXPORT DOCUMENTATION**

QUALIFICATIONS:
- 20-25 years old,
- College graduate
- Pleasing personality,
- Can work under pressure, hard-working
- W/ or without experience,
- Preferably female

Please apply personally at:

**LEADER GARMENTS CORP.**
1606B West Tower
Phil. Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Rd., Ortigas, Pasig City
Tel no. 631-60-57 to 59

---

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

## MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Must be 20-25 years old
- Single / female only
- 5'2 height
- College level/graduate
- With pleasing personality
- With good communication skill, hardworking

Please bring resumé with 2x2 colored pictures, birth certificate, transcript of record/diploma, SSS I.D., Brgy. / NBI or police clearance. Applicants may apply at:

**MATAPAT Office**
G-06C Regalia Park Towers
150 P. Tuazon, Cubao, QC
Tel.# 9133750 / 9129509 / 0917-9999945
*Contact person: Cecille*

---

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

## SYSTEMS COORDINATOR / MANAGER

CODE : SC/M

- Female; 28 years old and above
- Experience in Implementing Retail Inventory/ POS Systems (PC Based)
- Preferably Knowledgeable in MS SQL
- Good Communication Skills needed to Explain and Simplify Technical Matters to End Users
- Minimum Bachelor's or Graduate Degree in Computer Sciences or Related Field
- Strong background in Win 95/98/2000/XP/NT/ Server 2003
- Strong background in LAN/WAN
- Excellent Problem Solving/Planning/Project Management Skills
- Goal Driven; Strong Analytical Skills

Send your resumé at:
CODE ______
The HRD Department 3rd Flr., Anson Building
Ayala Ctr. A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City

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**TERADYNE**

Global Customer Services

Teradyne is a leading supplier of Automatic Test Equipment and interconnection systems. The company's products deliver competitive advantage to the world's leading semiconductor, electronics, automotive and network systems companies. Its Repair Center facility in Cebu has been in operation since 1996 and added a Customer Care Center that recently opened in 2003. With the unprecedented growth of the Company, we are looking for individuals who are creative, aggressive, and mature to fill up the position indicated below.

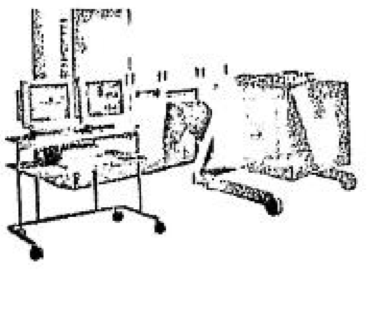
## CUSTOMER CARE CENTER MANAGER

**Duties / Tasks / Essential Function:**

The Customer Care Center Manager shall be responsible in managing the Worldwide Customer Care Center operating 7x24. The candidate is expected to achieve operational goals in the Customer Care Center, develops goals and strategies in driving continuous improvement using quality tools, develops and implements metrics to measure efficiency and productivity of customer service representatives, as well as to implement continuous learning plan for the whole customer care center employees. Likewise, he/she has to work closely with worldwide regional managers to resolve issues of Teradyne customers and participate in worldwide initiative programs by Field Operations, Sales, Marketing, Repair and Supply Chain. Develops, implements and monitors quality control standards. Develop quality, script and procedural enhancement.

**Qualifications:**

— Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 3-4 years of exceptional customer service work experience is an advantage.
— Very good phone, verbal and written communication skills in English language.
— Possesses leadership, organizational, and people management skills.
— Proficient with microsoft office package (Power Point, Excel and Word).
— Willing to work on shifting schedule, including night shift and flexible in working for more than the regular working hours.
— Will have to be on-call for any urgent operational matters; willing to travel abroad whenever necessary



The successful candidate will receive a competitive compensation and benefits package within the Call Center, Semiconductor and Electronics industry and has the opportunity to work in a technology-driven company like **TERADYNE.**

**THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT.** Qualified and interested applicants, please APPLY ON-LINE using the following link.

**http://www.teradyne.com/hr/jobs.html**

We shall only accommodate candidates with specific qualifications and skills requirements as stated above.

---

**MEDTECS**

We are looking for a

## SALES REPRESENTATIVE

college graduate with at least 3 yrs. experience in the textile and/or garment Industry

Applicants are invited to send their resume to the
HRD, Medtecs International Corp. Ltd.,
7th Floor Peninsula Court,
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1226.

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**WANTED IMMEDIATELY**
by an ISO 9001:2000 Certified Paint Manufacturing Company

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE for METRO MANILA**
Graduate of 4 or 5 yr. course, pref. w/ sales experience, not over 35 years old, w/ valid driver's license, computer literate, w/ good communication & interpersonal skills

**H R D Assistant**
Preferably graduate of Psychology, not over 35 years old, excellent communication skills, computer literate, w/ HR function experience

Please send complete resume, 2 x 2 photo, transcript of records and certificates of training at P. O. Box 619, Greenhills, Metro Manila

---

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www.jobmarketonline.com

## PRIMARY GROUP OF BUILDERS

We are a leading real estate company in Cebu, engaged in the design and construction of infrastructure and facilities. An industry leader, we are a trendsetter in effective technology and methodology, continuously developing to provide innovative products and services for the market. After 55 years in the business, we have diversified and have created business entities, affiliates and subsidiaries to complement our existing activities; each with distinct corporate personality but a common pursuit geared towards excellence in the shelter industry.

PRIMARY STRUCTURES CORPORATION · COMMONWEALTH ESTATE INC the way we live. · PRIMARY INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES CORPORATION · CONCRETE SOLUTIONS INCORPORATED

### DEVELOPMENT ARCHITECT

***The Role***

The successful candidate will report directly to the Division Manager – Project Management Group and will be responsible in preparation of concept and design of turnkey development project for commercial/industrial facilities.

***The Candidate***

- BS Architecture Graduate with License
- With at least five (5) years experience in commercial/industrial design-build
- Exposure to project management and further studies is an advantage
- Exposure to commercial interior design
- Preferably with supervisory experience
- Proficient in AutoCad and other computer-based design software
- Not more than 35 years old

### PROJECT MANAGER

***The Role***

The successful candidate will be reporting directly to the Operations Manager. He will be responsible for the realization of company objectives and the implementation of approved plans & policies specifically in the assigned project.

***The Candidate***

- Civil Engineer/Architect
- With at least five (5) years supervisory Project Management experience in large Commercial/Industrial Projects
- Computer proficient in Microsoft Project and other Project Management Software
- Excellent in written & verbal communication skills

The successful candidates can look forward to a career growth and a highly competitive salary and benefits package. Residents from Visayas and Mindanao regions who are willing to work in Cebu will be given priority.

If this career development appeals to you, please submit your signed application letter, resume, transcript of records, and employment certifications not later than December 16, 2005 to:

**THE HR MANAGER**
Primary Structures Corporation
PSC Bldg. , 333 V. Rama Avenue
Cebu City 6000
Or E-mail to: hrd@primary.com.ph

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## FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT

Fostering Partnerships for the Environment

**The Foundation for the Philippine Environment, an NGO National Environmental Fund, is in need of**

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**(Position Code: ED)**

***Position Summary:***
The Executive Director ensures that FPE carries out its mission of biodiversity conservation through the establishment of cooperative linkages between FPE and local and international donors, government and private sector entities, NGOs and people's organizations, and negotiation of funding arrangements; initiates, assists and releases funding for duly approved projects; and provides overall direction on FPE's day-to-day operations. The position is based in Quezon City.

***Minimum Qualifications and Experience:***

- Minimum of ten years' experience working in an organization (preferably NGO), including five years in a management position and working with a Board of Trustees/Directors
- An advanced degree and/or extensive experience in any of the following: environmental science, development management, ecology, environmental planning and management, community-based resource management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, strategic planning
- Working knowledge of nonprofit fiscal management, including fund accounting and budgeting
- Skills and abilities: Fund raising and dealing with local and international donors •Management • Negotiation •Coordination and collaboration • Analytical and Planning skills • Computer literate • Oral and written communication
- Maturity and high degree of energy
- Not over 60 years of age
- Physically fit

### MANAGER, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

**(Position Code: MPDO)**

***Minimum Qualifications and Experience:***

- Bachelor's degree with minimum 7 years work experience in non-government organization and/or donor agencies implementing or supporting community based resource management projects/ programs; with three years in supervisory capacity
- Must have working knowledge on any of the following: environmental planning and management, community-based resource management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, resource assessment and inventory, program development, research
- Skills and abilities: Supervision • Negotiation • Coordination and collaboration • Analytical and Planning skills • Computer literate • Oral and written communication
- Physically fit.

Please mail your application letter, bio-data, transcript of records and latest 2x2 color photograph to:

The HRDA Unit
FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT
77 Matahimik St., Teachers' Village, Diliman, Quezon City
Position Code: ________

Deadline for submission of applications: 10 January 2006
We will respond to qualified applicants only.
No telephone inquiry will be entertained.

---

## Supervisory Leadership Development

**December 16, 2005, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., RCBC Plaza**

The productive or anemic performance of your people and your business depends largely on your supervisors. If they can effectively guide, control and motivate the people, the desired result will be achieved. Unfortunately, supervision is anything but easy. In fact, what often happens is that when a productive worker is promoted to a supervisory position, the company loses an effective worker and gains a poor supervisor. This is known as the Peter Principle and this is largely attributable to lack of fundamental skills and attitude training in supervision. Lack of training is a sure-fire formula for failure. This powerful program is designed to equip and empower the Supervisors by providing them the fundamental and advanced concepts and tools to professionalize their management style and enable them to effectively lead their team.

LEARNING SEED

Session I : Why Some Supervisors Fail
Session II : Becoming a Supervisor
Session III : Some Nuts And Bolts of Supervison
Session IV : Planning and Goal Setting
Session V : Leading Your People
Session VI : How to Motivate for Result

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- New or recently promoted supervisors with less than three years of formal supervisory experience
- Experienced supervisors or managers reentering the job market and looking to update their resumes
- Informal leaders who have an unofficial supervisory role of leading teams of coworkers or volunteers
- Individuals whose career plans include becoming a supervisor in the near future

**SEMINAR INVESTMENT**

>>> EARLY BIRD RATE <<<
P 1,195 + vat until December 8

>>>REGULAR RATE<<<
P 1,495 + vat starting December 9

(complete with snacks, handouts and certificates)

**CALL US NOW FOR INQUIRIES/RESERVATIONS**
**PORTER & MILES Look for Mercy 638-7719/20**
**Fax Number 637-6890 Email:pml@alfox.net Website:www.pml.com.ph**

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FT

FINANCIAL TIMES

The Financial Times, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, requires additional staff for its Manila office. The ideal candidates should meet the criteria enumerated below and must be able to start as soon as possible.

## TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- Previous experience as telephone operator/receptionist or admin assistant for a multinational company
- Knowledgeable in PABX operation
- Excellent English communication skills and telephone ethics
- Graduate of any four- or five-year course
- Computer literate and can perform administrative functions as required
- Willing and able to work an evening shift as required

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph to **The HR and Administration Manager** at the address below not later than December 19, 2005:

**Financial Times Philippines**
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
*Visit our website www.ft.com*

---

## COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR/MANAGER
## COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT/CONSULTANT

Independent, open-minded and motivated individual with strong English level and communication skills sought by a start-up consulting company for job in project management. Ideal candidate is organized and results oriented and has work experience for at least 2-3 years in sales, client relations or call center operations.

Interested parties, please send resumé via email to career110track@yahoo.com

or

P.O. Box 300
The Manager, Career Track
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
SM Megamall Bldg. B, Mandaluyong

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## WANTED LAWYER

with 1 year experience
in handling collection cases
Compensation Package:
Basic Salary + free practice
Employment shall commence
in January 2006
Submit resumé at Suite 1103,
Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
or call **6341074** – look for ***Ms. Cris***

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Gatchie and Partners Image and Advocacy Consultants, Inc. is looking for additional personnel for its expanding business.

- Group Executive Secretary
    - Female, not more than 30 years old
    - Organized
    - Pleasant, with good people skills
    - Can write letters and other forms of business communications
    - Knowledge of basic computer programs is a must
    - Can deliver on time
    - Preferably with exposure and knowledge in media-relations
- Junior Bookkeeper/Administration Assistant
    - Female, not more than 30 years old
    - Must have experience in bookkeeping and Accounting
    - With knowledge of Excel and other accounting applications
    - Adaptable
    - Organized
    - Pleasant, with good people skills

E-mail resumes to gatchiepr@yahoo.com / gatchiepr@gmail.com or send it to 93-E Scout Lozano cor. Scout Tuazon Streets, Barangay Laging Handa, 1103 Quezon City.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

**The country's leading newspaper is looking for:**

## CREDIT STAFF

**Qualifications:**

- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
- Preferably with office experience

**Responsibilities:**

- Assists the Credit Assistants in facilitating credit approval of all advertisements that includes ads through agencies, direct clients and others.

## PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

**Qualifications:**

- College graduate preferably Psychology or a Behavioral Science course
- At least 1 year experience in benefits administration
- Familiar with labor standards and government-mandated benefits. Knows how to use office software. Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Social Skills, Report Writing Skills, Customer Service Skills
- Knowledge of first-aid

## PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST

**Qualifications:**

- College graduate preferably with background in Computer
- With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding in color management systems
- Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

**HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD**
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

---

## AUTOCAD OPERATOR

Able to create designs of POP, Mall Displays, Display Cabinet Fixtures using Lightscape, Studio viz, etc. Have computer equipement to work at home. Preferably architecture or interior design graduate. Pls. contact Bryan Bautista at 7217320; 0917-5322960

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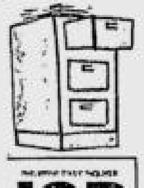
**Resume Box**
**We gather your resumés and forward them to companies with employment needs.**



JOB Market

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**POSITION:**

## Financial Analyst

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics or Computer Science or related degree with at least 6 units in accounting
- At least 1 year working experience in IT or Finance Audit with strong analytical background
- Must have knowledge in the following; Basic computer operating systems, data structure, logic flow, programming techniques, accounting, statistical analysis tools and mathematical probabilities, permutation & combination
- Persons w/ SPSS or any statistical analysis software knowledge is a plus
- The person will be directly reporting to the President of the Company

Interested applicants may submit/send their resumé to:

Philweb Corporation, 17/F Tower I,
The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue
Makati City or please send via email to
**AYVelasco@philweb.com.ph**

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## WE ARE IN NEED OF ESL TEACHERS

- College graduate
- Good command of the English language
- With/without experience in ESL teaching
- Willing to be trained on the job

Interested applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 picture to:

**VIVI ENGLISH TRAINING CENTER, INC.**
2nd Floor, Vargas Bldg.,
103 Kalayaan Avenue
Bgy. Central, Quezon City
Telefax: 929-9673

Or e-mail your resumé to:
**adrian3b@lycos.com**
vien7nicole@yahoo.com

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Ad agency based in QC needs:

**BILLING and ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

- Graduate of Finance or related course from top university
- 20-24 years old
- With background in accounting
- Very good at organizing; meticulous with details
- Good oral and written English

Will be in-charge of billings and internal operations.
Will coordinate closely with suppliers, clients and management.
Send your resumé to frontdoor@dyll.biz

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**URGENTLY NEEDED**

## MARKETING OFFICER

With experience in Janitorial Services. Preferably with car. High compensation package.

**FAX RESUMÉ TO**
**4754643**

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**★ JOB OPENING ★**
**COLLEGE GRADUATES OF ANY COURSE**

*NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
*18-35 YEARS OLD
*M/F SINGLE/MARRIED
*GRAD/UNDERGRAD ACCEPTED
*MUST BE WILLING TO BE TRAIN

**APPLY IN PERSON & BRING YOUR RESUMÉ w/ 2x2 PICTURE**
From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday

**NOTE:** All qualified applicants will start immediately.

APPLY AT:
Suite 1004 10F West Tower, Tektite Phil. Stock Exchange Center
Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
(Back of Megamall near San Miguel Bldg.)
*FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS, CLIP THIS AD*

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**Now Hiring**
**TEACHERS**
**English • Araling Panlipunan • Science**
Pls. bring your credentials personally at
8 Grassland St., Bartville Subd.,
Dela Paz, Pasig City
9001324

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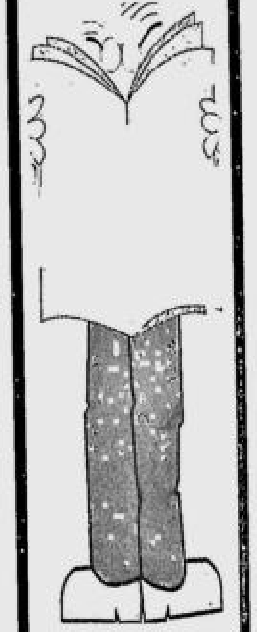

INQUIRER

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# CONTACTPOINT

## Realize your True Potential

Be an

## Outbound Sales Call Center Agent

- Candidates must possess Good English communication skills
- Applicants must be willing to do outbound sales/telemarketing
- Applicants must understand and be willing to meet the demands of an outbound sales agent
- Applicants must be assertive, driven, persistent
- Experience in sales, telemarketing or as an outbound call center agent is an advantage (but not required)

Its time to join our winning team and be among the highest paid agents in the industry

ContactPoint Outsource Services, Inc. is a customer relationship management company utilizing voice technologies. A spin-off from the call center operations of Pacific Internet Philippines, ContactPoint evolved into a fully operational global outsourcing call center in November 2002.

ContactPoint has now become one of the fastest growing call centers, expanding operations capacity by more than 300% in less than a year's time. Located in the heart of Ortigas Business Center, ContactPoint services US-based clients included in Fortune Top 500 Companies offering complete outbound, inbound, and customer service capabilities to a wide range of businesses and consumer markets.

jobs_cp@pacific.net.ph

31 Floor Wynsum Corporate Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605

Tel : 702-7400
Fax : 702-7400 local 5011

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# What are the worst ways to find a job?

**WORKING WOUNDED**

*Bob Rosner*

DEAR READERS: THE E-MAIL below is typical of what I'm hearing from frustrated job-seekers today. Do you agree with the writer that the Internet should be a small part of a search, or do you think he's overlooking a great tool? (I'd be glad to run a "pro" Internet column, if someone wants to argue the other side.)

Dear WW: I just had my fifth interview in which a manager half my age wound up a 45-minute conversation by saying, "It's OK, kid, you're not 'our kind of guy,' but take it as a compliment that you got as high up as me for an interview."

Such has been my life after six months of job hunting on the Internet, after being dumped on the street from one of Oregon's high-profile resort casinos. I'm a marketing and sales manager, have been all my life, since I carried Jack Kennedy's bags to his room. One year short of my retirement, I got to experience the joys of job hunting in the 21st century—so, this old dog thought, how about a new trick—the Internet??

Fuhgettaboudit. The good news about the Internet: there are hundreds of jobs out there, all easy to get to. The bad news: all those jobs are easy for everyone to get to. Every shoe salesman, axe murderer and runaway teenager with a good golf swing can access it and send a resumé, clogging my chances of getting through. My racket is hospitality, this is my reality. Under-funded, undertrained, overworked and bored HR departments in the hotel business are swamped by resumés and drenched with three, often 400 resumés for the kinds of jobs I seek: Director of Sales and Marketing. Six resumés a day, five days a week, for six months—do the math.

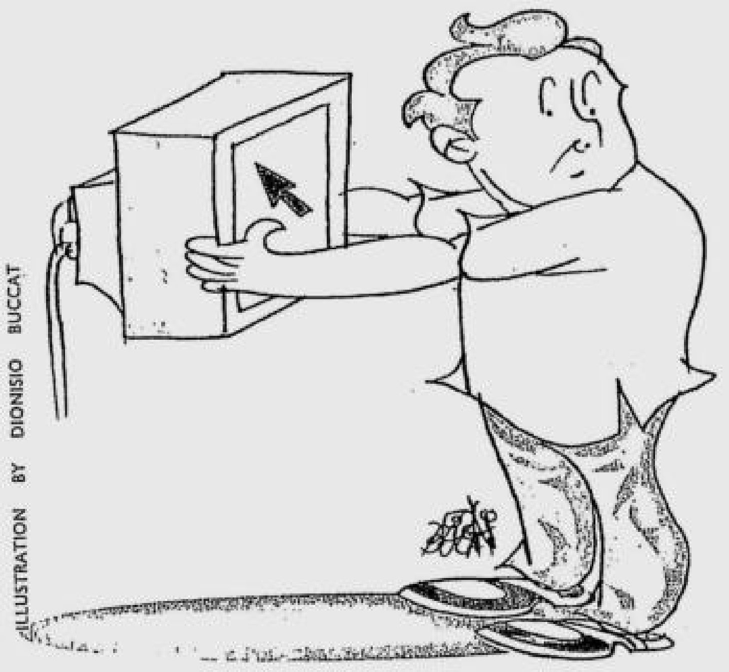


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Frustrated, I called three top hotel HR departments and asked about my resumé. None of the three could even find it. Two of the three admitted they got so many, it was probably still in the server with the "other hundred still left unread."

Technology, don't you just love it? Send your CV and within 120 seconds, most of those HR departments computers are trained to kick out a programmed, "thanks, we're busy, swamped, overworked, got more than we need, don't call us," (I've got copies of all the above ).

The point of all this? Look, don't depend on the Net, and certainly don't depend on headhunters (didn't mean to break your heart.) In 25 years, there are only three I would let babysit my children: Harry in Texas, Tom in Seattle and Mitch in Phoenix.

Finding a job? Don't rely on the Internet. Press the flesh, call your friends, check out Chamber meetings, business associates, its back-to-the-future folks. With all the babble about 21st century flash-n-dash, it's still who-knows-you.

My best advice? Be faithful to only two things: You, Inc. and your Rolodex, nothing else. Remember, you heard it here--from the front lines. Keep your rifle oiled.

*(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

# Admin supervisor wants to shift to HR work

**ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR**

*Josie O. Santamaria*

**MY JOB AS ADMINISTRATIVE supervisor is dull, boring and repetitious. I can do all my tasks mechanically and effortlessly, and this is not an exaggeration. I'm very frustrated. At 45 years old, and female at that, it will be very difficult for me to change my job, career and employer. The mindset of my co-employees is that I'm the administrative supervisor and no one can think of me in any other role.**

**I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology and interested in an HR job. My company is engaged in garment wholesale. However, with 18 people, including the owners, we do not have an HR unit and have no plan of having one. It is owned by a nice Chinese couple. The salary and benefits are OK; this is why I've stayed this long. My relationship with my bosses, peers and staff of two people are OK. It's my job that is frustrating.**

**Applying for an HR job in another company will be difficult considering my age. I don't want to start in an assistant position all over again.**

**Ms TGIF**

You have already provided the reason for a career change: you find your job dull, boring and repetitious such that you dread Mondays and look forward to Fridays. You probably look at your watch often to see if it is time for snacks and lunch or to go home.

### Symptoms

Other symptoms, not true of you but experienced by people who need to change jobs and careers, are:

- feeling of tiredness and exhaustion;
- frequent complaints of illness such as headaches, dizziness, allergies, diarrhea, etc. to justify absence from work
- disengagement from work such as frequent visits to the comfort room, texting, making phone calls, etc;.
- perking up only when it is payday.

Job security and good interpersonal relationship at work are the usual reasons why we hold on to a job that no longer satisfies and fulfills us. Other reasons that are extrinsic to the job but which justify our staying on to it are:

- loyalty to the bosses or owners of the company;
- "golden handcuffs" e.g. attractive perks and benefits that one enjoys;
- tenure, i.e., one has invested 10-15 years of his or her life and considers it a "waste" to throw such investment away;
- looking forward to receiving an attractive retirement package if offered;
- looking forward to retirement at 60 years or 65 years (if in government service);
- co-employees have become "family" to them.

These are wrong reasons for holding on to your job if it is no longer satisfying your intrinsic needs for challenge, growth and sense of achievement.

I wrote a series of four articles on career change and which were published in the People at Work section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in September 2001. These articles were published in my book, "Managing Your Work and Career" published by New Day Publishers.

### Options

You ask, "What can I do?" In turn, I ask you, what options do you have?

One option is to stay in your company for the reasons you have cited. You have two sub-options: one, you continue to stay in your current administrative position and two, you transfer to another job in another section in your company. To remain in your current job and function, and avoid or minimize frustration, you need to change your mindset about it so that you can begin to enjoy it again. Do not say that your job is boring, dull and repetitive. What you perceive affects your attitudes; your attitudes affect your actions. These are your perceptions, which you have the power to change. Be grateful that you have a job in a good company.

You also need to take a good look at the following assumptions you have which affect again your work attitudes and behaviors:

- you can do all your tasks mechanically and effortlessly;
- your co-employees can't think of you in any other role;
- applying for an HR job will be difficult for you because of your age.

Look for ways you can improve your performance. Tell yourself that things can and should be improved. Re-engineer your job so that it can be done more efficiently and effectively. For example: improve the systems of doing the administrative tasks, which are done by you and by your staff. If the system is effective, document it so that whoever succeeds you has something to follow and build on. While doing this, be happy and grateful that you are contributing to the efficiency of the company.

*(To be continued)*

*(Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc. Send feedback to* carsys@careersystems.com.ph.)

INNOVATING BRAND 'YOU'

# Capture your imagination

By Regina Galang Reyes
*People at Work editor*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

*(Part V)*

TRY THIS MENTAL EXERCISE: Imagine you are your family's first ancestor to immigrate to the United States. Why did you go there? What are your hopes, dreams and fears? This exercise is taken from the book, "Make Beliefs for Kids of All Ages" by Bill Zimmerman and Tom Bloom.

If you went through this exercise now, were you able to quickly use your imagination to make believe that you are really in the United States? If imagining was easy for you in this exercise, then you would have used one of the most powerful abilities given by God to man.

### Taken for granted

According to Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, "imagination" is "the act or power of forming a mental image of something not present to the senses or never before wholly perceived in reality" and "a creative ability." In this definition, it is acknowledged that imagination is a "power." And yet, many people take this power for granted and forget to put it to good use in their work and daily lives.

People take it for granted because whenever we "fantasize," daydream or make believe, we usually think these fantasies, dreams and make believe won't amount to anything useful in our lives.

But we fail to realize that if we look around us, practically everything that is man-made was first created as a fantasy, a dream, a make believe in the minds of men, a "figment of our imagination" so to speak.

Imagination, therefore, is the prelude to creativity which in turn is the source of innovation.

### Power of imagination

So why are we not using it more often to innovate brand "you?" One reason could be is that perhaps we have imbibed the attitude of "That can never happen." Don't we often hear the comments, "Your ambition is not realistic." "That's just a fantasy, get real!" "You are dreaming again!?" These comments douse cold water on our dreams, keeping us from using the power of imagination to discover our personal vision. And to think that using this power won't cost a single cent.

Viktor Frankl, author of one of the most popular books pre-Stephen Covey, "Man's Search for Meaning," used his imagination to survive his imprisonment in Auschwitz and other concentration camps for five years. Frankl noted something very significant in the prisoners who died in the concentration camps, many of whom underwent less hardship and suffering than those who survived. He noted that the survivors tended to be people who envisioned a future for themselves despite their present suffering, people who believed they had a meaning in life and did not surrender to despair. He himself created his own "world" in his mind to personally survive the concentration camps.

### Creative visualization

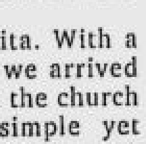
So how do we use the power of imagination for personal change? We can use it to imagine our personal vision, what we want to be. We can use it to develop our personal brand—brand "you."

Here's a visualization technique I picked up from one of the best trainers I have ever met but who last year crossed over to his Creator. Imagine that you are already 80 years old and you are celebrating your birthday. Your house is filled with your family, relatives, friends and colleagues all excited to celebrate your birthday. They want to give you tributes and express what you have meant to them in their lives. What would your spouse say about you? What would your

CAPTURE/P.7★★★

# Entrepreneur wants greater employee commitment

By Tita Datu Puangco



*Advice*

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

**I AM A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR with over 160 employees. The past five years have seen our company grow rapidly. We are poised for even higher growth in the next five years. My challenge is this: in the past years, we have tried moving into professional systems and structures.**

**My problem has to do with the commitment of people. In the past years, attrition was close to zero. We were a close-knit group at the beginning with everybody doing multiple jobs. Now I noticed that some people I want to keep are resigning. Then, people do not go on overtime as readily as they used to.**

**I want greater employee commitment. I also noticed that the competencies required of people today are more complex. Should I try to develop people inside the organization, even though they have weak educational qualifications? Or let them go and hire already competent people? I also think my people systems are rather weak.**

**Worried Entrepreneur**

Talking of commitment, reminds me of this world-c:lass folk theater group we watched last weekend in Sta. Rita, Pampanga. The group is called Arti Sta. Rita. With a group of friends, we arrived two hours early at the church yard (where a simple yet lovely stage had been set up) to watch in action as the cast of close to a hundred people were rehearsing parts of their presentation. It is amazing how committed and passionate the group was to their mission of enhancing and preserving the Kapampangan heritage. They must have spent days and weeks rehearsing as evidenced by the level of excellence they demonstrated that evening. Congratulations to everyone but especially to Andy Alviz, the artistic director.

When I do strategic planning workshops, I always liken flawless implementation to a theater presentation where it takes a coalition of three working together to deliver: leadership as embodied by the director of the play, employees as the actors on stage and performance support as the invisible yet critical production crew.

### Building commitment

How does one build commitment? Dick Richards talks of commitment as "a call of a leader to summon others to a purpose that is defined, embodied and symbolized by who that leader is and what he says and does." He further talks of a transformational power that can create substance out of mere dreams and promises. This happens because of the dedication, involvement and persistence of the followers.

There are the four forms of commitment. The lowest level is political commitment. He defines this as "commitment to something in order to gain something else." We are well aware of the fleeting nature of this commitment.

For most corporations, what could best apply are the next levels of commitment. Intellectual commitment refers to the "commitment of the mind to a good idea." Then "emotional commitment would talk of "commitment that arises from strong feeling." As for Arti Sta. Rita, I realized commitment was beyond intellectual and emotional but the highest level that was spiritual, "a commitment to a higher purpose." A conversation with the artistic director makes this level of commitment palpable.

How does one achieve committed human energy at the highest level? Richards cites three techniques: rendering

ENTREPRENEUR/P.7★★★

6

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**ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS (JAVA or RPG)**
*Position Code: APjava or APrpg*

Perform analysis, coding, testing, and packaging in the areas of Development and/or Maintenance. Ensure quality output and adherence to standards in producing codes.

- Must be a graduate of an IT-related course with at least 3 years experience in the relevant programming languages
- Experienced in doing analysis, design, and testing
- For Java Programmers:
  - Knowledge and experience in Java/J2EE, Object Oriented Development, Websphere Studio Application Developer (WSAD) or Eclipse, HTML, JavaScript, XML, SQL, JAXB
  - Experience in J2EE frameworks and open source libraries such as Struts will be an advantage
  - Banking knowledge will be an advantage
- For RPG Programmers:
  - Experience in RPG400, RPG/ILE, CLLE and preferably GUI400
  - Banking knowledge and customer relations experience will be an advantage

**JAVA TECHNICAL LEADS**
*Position Code: TLjava*

Produce analysis and design specifications. Coach and advise programmers in coding and testing to support project development and maintenance.

- Must be a graduate of an IT-related course with at least 5 years experience in Java/J2EE
- With strong object-oriented development and design experience in UML, database modeling, and J2EE design patterns
- Knowledge and experience in Websphere Studio Application Developer (WSAD) or Eclipse, Websphere Application Server (WAS), SQL, web services, HTML, JavaScript, XML, JAXB
- Experience in J2EE frameworks and open source libraries such as Struts will be an advantage
- Banking knowledge will be an advantage

**JAVA Technical Designer**
*Position Code: TDjava*

Design software components and solutions based on business requirements. Provide Detailed Estimate for the solution presented for the business requirements. Maintain the current architectural framework of the product.

- Must have at least 4 years practical experience of designing solutions for a large product or system using J2EE and JAVA.
- Exemplary skills in Application, Information and Technology Planning, Systems Definition and Design in J2EE, JAVA and Web Sphere.
- Experience in UML, JAVA design patterns and use of relevant design tools
- Experience in J2EE frameworks and open source libraries such as Struts, JAXB, etc.

**JAVA Technical Architect**
*Position Code: TAjava*

Research and provide input for the technical strategy employed in building software solutions that meets the business and technical requirements of Misys. Maintain and improve the current architectural framework of the product. Design software components and solutions based on business requirements.

- Must have at least 5 years practical experience of designing and building software systems for the financial industry using J2EE and JAVA
- Proven track record of successful Architecture, Design and Technical Design Authority for at least 2 major technologically innovative solutions in a multi-vendor systems integration
- Exemplary skills in Application, Information and Technology Planning, Systems Definition and Design in J2EE, JAVA and Web Sphere
- Experience in UML, JAVA design patterns and use of relevant design tools
- Experience in J2EE frameworks and open source libraries such as Struts, JAXB, etc.

**JAVA PROJECT MANAGER**
*Position Code: PMjava*

Deliver projects on time and within budget. Manage all development-related activities. Communicate project plans and ensure that effective project controls are in line with the Quality Assurance processes.

- Must have at least 7 years experience in software development and project management
- Must have banking business understanding
- Experience in the use of banking software solutions and its technology

**BUSINESS ANALYSTS (Wholesale or Retail)**
*Position Code: BAws or BAre*

Ensure that the software produced is of high quality, satisfies the client requirements, and is operationally fit for its business purposes. Ensure that product quotations are representative of the true effort of development.

- Must have a minimum of 5 years banking experience with the relevant fields of specialization in a team leader or supervisory capacity.
- For Wholesale, we require expertise in Treasury (Foreign Exchange, Money Market, Securities bonds and T-bills) and Bank Accounting.
- For Retail, we require expertise in systems implementation and banking operations exposure in a Retail Bank environment.

**SYSTEM TESTERS**
*Position Code: SysT*

Develop and execute quality assurance test scripts to ensure the high quality of the products produced. Participate in the development, maintenance, documentation, and implementation of testing tools to ensure they remain accurate, updated, and applicable.

- Must have a minimum of 5 years banking experience in Treasury (Foreign Exchange, Money Market, Securities bonds and T-bills) and Bank Accounting.

**HELPDESK ANALYST**
*Position Code: HelpA*

Provide high quality customer support service to the bank clients. Achieve increased company revenue by ensuring customer satisfaction and client reference-ability.

- Must have a relevant university degree with at least 3 years experience in functional/technical environment in RPG and/or Java.
- Lending module knowledge is an advantage.
- Must be flexible in work shift and is willing to work overtime: Saturdays and during Manila holidays to support Asia Pacific clients
- Willing to travel as necessary

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## *Desert experience*

**By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD**

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S REFERENCE OF HIMSELF AS A "VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN the desert" reminds me of the "desert experience" of some people who share during community reflection sessions their life experiences of hardships, pain and suffering, desperation, boredom and spiritual dryness and other similar feelings. Many relate these seemingly bad experiences in the context of their work. Many, however, would add that these "desert experiences" in work have also provided them some kind of spiritual healing.

Work and the workplace could be a "desert" for many when the aspects of hardships and suffering are being focused on more than the challenges and blessings, which could be brought in one's life. When the monotony and boredom of repetitive tasks (making the worker act almost like machines) prevail over the meaningful and purposeful designs of the work and services being rendered, spiritual aridity overwhelms the worker.

Likewise, overemphasis on the material and financial aspects of work and services heightens the intensity of the worker's desire for worldly things but dampens his sensitivity for the spiritual values, which after all will lead him out of the "desert" of work.

Everyone in the workplace, therefore, needs to heed the "voice of one crying in the desert"—a lively faith in the words of Jesus, and a secure feeling of His loving presence in our "desert," our worKplaces and our homes. Working with a deep and real faith in Jesus is like finding an oasis in the desert—discovering the meaning and purpose of work and the lasting benefits it brings in our life. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

## REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

**Gospel Jn 1: 6-8. 19-28**
*He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.'"*

## *Deaf to the little voice*

**By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS**

IF YOU HAVE REALLY CLOSELY OBSERVED THE BEHAVIOR OF A COMPLAINER IN THE workplace, chances are you'll see that he's often the one to be ultimately blamed for the miserable state he claims to be in. And the root cause of his misery—if he's honest enough to admit it—is his deafness to the little voice within.

One of the most graphic lessons in the Bible is contained in today's Gospel. The voice in the desert that cries out to make straight the way for the Lord, I mean. Many things about the workplace tempt us to take it easy, to deliver sloppy work, or to blame situations or other people for our failures. Seeing many things around us as crooked tempts us to excuse ourselves for not being that straight. We want job satisfaction and fulfillment but we don't really want to work for it—we want it served to us in a pretty platter, for free! But that's not the way justice works.

We can afford to be quite literal about today's Gospel lesson: if we want happiness at work, we should listen to that little voice called conscience and straighten out what's crooked in us: our lackadaisical attitude towards our job, our ingratitude for the work that feeds us, our self-righteousness in viewing our coworkers, our haughtiness in thinking the world owes us a living, our lack of respect for the value of our work, our justification for committing "little sins" like stealing and cheating at work, etc. For as long as we refuse to recognize these destructive tendencies in us for what they really are, our "successes" at the workplace will be but shallow victories—here today, gone tomorrow, without bringing lasting satisfaction to our whole person. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

## Capture your imagination

**From page 6★★★**

children say about you? What words of appreciation would your friends express? What would your colleagues say about you? What you want them to say about you is what you want yourself to become at age 80, what you want yourself to mean to other people as you approach the twilight of your life. This is your vision for yourself. Write or draw it.

I did this activity with this trainer in 1996. I drew an area with lots of buildings, which could serve as accommodations and venue for training programs. I quickly forgot about it. Now nine years later (though I am definitely not yet in my 80s!), after acquiring additional lots and constructing a few buildings, our family now has assets that in the near future could be turned into a well-equipped training center. I forgot my dream but my dream never forgot me.

### 'Capturing' devices

Aside from creating your personal vision or personal brand, use also the third strategy mentioned in the first part of this series of articles (published last Oct. 30 in this section): *Treasure your thoughts and ideas by keeping a journal and having a notebook handy at all times to record whatever pops in your head. Sometimes, a stream of thought can lead you towards a river of ideas on how you can improve yourself.*

New ideas are fleeting. Like pollen blown by the wind on a hot summer day, they can just float past a flower and never be able to create another flower. So capture your ideas as they float by—they may be in your dreams at night or daydreams, they may be in your fantasies or hopes and aspirations. Capture them on something concrete, be it a notebook, cell phone, camera or voice recorder. Keep them handy at all times, by your bedside, in your bathroom or inside your car. A creativity expert wrote that moments of inspiration can catch you in any of these three B's: bed, bath and bus.

If you do not have any of these "capturing" devices, devise your own "capturing" mechanism in moments of need. Writers scribble on paper napkins, artists draw on newspapers. A very creative participant in one of our creativity training programs said that if ever he would be in such a desperate situation, he would call his phone and record his ideas on his phone's answering machine. Whatever "capturing" device you use or devise, make sure to capture your imagination to power up your life.

*(For copies of previous articles, e-mail* rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

## Entrepreneur wants greater ...

**From page 6★★★**

significance, enacting beliefs and centering. Rendering significance means helping people come to full human maturity by rendering the modern world as spiritual. It may not be religious in nature but it allows the leader to bring his spiritual energies forward. It means a deeper appreciation of what one is doing and uncovering a moral objective.

Enacting one's beliefs include articulating them clearly, connecting actions with beliefs and choosing a process. Centering has to do with a leader's insight and self-awareness, emotional engagement and fostering hope.

### Managing transitions

To move your company from a natural to a professional culture, one has to be aware of the necessity of managing transitions. People have to be helped through the transition stages of endings, neutral zones and new beginnings as cited by William Bridges. As one moves forward in the corporate journey, dysfunctions can surface in people's competencies and attitudes. On your people dilemma, I propose that you do both. Try to address competency gaps of current staff as well as bring in competent employees. One has to honor the people who contributed to your growth and at the same time take in people who can role model the new values and competencies.

### HR systems

With 160 people, you would need to invest in formal human resource systems and to hire a competent human resource manager. The manager can support your effort to maintain a culture of performance and commitment. What I propose is for you (if you have need of a consultant, our company can help) to undertake a diagnosis of your human resource organization, systems and practices to provide clear change direction.

In closing, I propose for you to let go of the past and recognize that your enterprise has moved from a simple entrepreneurial venture to a growing and more systematized professional organization. But do take care of yourself and your people moving forward.

*(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. For advice and feedback, e-mail* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or call tel. nos. 8922895/96/98.)*

## touch lives every day

Everyday millions of people around the globe have their lives improved by Philips products. Whether it's the refreshing lifestyle products that form the basic essentials of a home, the innovative entertainment systems that provide a wholesome touch to the essence of a relaxed urban home, or the intelligent wireless, products people have come to love both in and outside the family. With us, your thinking and ideas will have positive impact on people too. With Philips, you'll touch lives every day.

# Philips Semiconductors Calamba

### (3) Test Product Engineering Manager

*Responsibilities:*

- Supervises TPE Section, plans and executes TPE directions, executes and facilitates performance appraisal, develops competence program for TPE, provides reports for management use, supports all manufacturing requirements.

*Requirements:*

- BS ECE/EE graduates
- With 7-10 years working experience in a semiconductor company
- Male/Female
- At least 2 years experience as Senior TPE/Section Manager
- Knowledgeable on digital, analog and mised-signal test methodology

### (1) Test Process Engineering Manager

*Responsibilities:*

- Manages and controls introduction of new product, processes, packages and materials in the test floor to ensure manufacturability
- Improves existing device set-up on mechanical interface through new design or re-design
- Interfaces with colleagues from other test plants related to hardware standardization, with the product group or business line related to requirements of hardware for new product, with the vendors related to hardware designs and with the assembly innovation and manufacturing related to new processes surrounding the IC package

*Requirements:*

- BS ME/ECE/EE graduate
- With 7-10 years working experience in a semiconductor company
- Male/Female
- At least 2 years experience as Senior Test Process Engineer/Section Manager
- In depth knowledge on IC semicon test process; expertise in mechanical design, development and actual implementation of test interface; extensive autocad design experience; strong background on mechanical test set-up ensuring quality of set-up and integrity of units; solid background on handler operations and troubleshooting

### (30) Test Product/Test Hardware/ RF Product Engineers

*Requirements:*

- Graduates of BS ECE/EE/COE/ME/Physics
- Fresh graduates of BS Physics may also submit their resumes
- At least 3 yrs relevant work experience in a semiconductor company
- With hands-on experience on test development/test qualification on MIXED Signal, Analog, Digital devices, VLSI and Mixed Signal ATE engineering tools, wafer test and final test processes
- Computer Literate- UNIX, LINUX, C, C++
- RF theory and practices (actual testing of RF devices)
- Tester knowledge (applications for Teradyne, LTX)

### (1) Test Systems Engineer

*Requirements:*

- BS ECE/EE/COE graduate
- With 3 years working experience in a semiconductor company
- Male/Female
- With extensive experience in Test System LTX Teradyne/ Agilent
- Solid technical exposure in providing technical Test System support to Test production customers in terms of troubleshooting, problem solving and tester overall improvements

### (1) Test Network Engineer

*Requirements:*

- BS ECE/EE/COE/IT graduate
- With 3- 5 years working experience in a semiconductor company
- Male; 20-20 vision
- With extensive experience on UNIX and LINUX system administration; windows (NT, WIN2K); Oracle database; familiarity in manufacturing processes; Shell Scriptwriting and Perl programming
- Adept with network administration, networking infrastructure in the production floor

### (1) Singulation/Pre-Assy Engineer

*Requirements:*

- Graduates of BS ECE/EE/ME graduate
- At least 2 yrs relevant work experience in a semiconductor company
- With extensive hands-on experience on SPC, 8D FMEA, OCAP And QC Tools
- Adept with Pre-assy and Saw Singulation machines; knowledgeable on machine and process troubleshooting and line sustaining
- Experienced in mentoring technicians and providing training and certification, supervising high level engineering support
- Computer Literate

### (1) Test Equipment Engineer

*Requirements:*

- Graduates of BS ECE/EE/ME graduate
- At least 3 yrs relevant work experience in a semiconductor company
- With extensive hands-on experience on Test Handlers and Gravity Handler; electro-mechanically inclined
- Adept with Handler maintenance and operating procedures

### (1) Test Line Sustaining Engineer

*Requirements:*

- Graduates of BS ECE/EE/ME graduate
- At least 3 yrs relevant work experience in a semiconductor company
- With extensive hands-on experience on Test Handlers
- Adept with Handler maintenance and operating procedures

# Philips Semiconductors Cabuyao

### Chief Development Engineer

*Requirements:*

- BS ECE/EE/ME/CHEME graduate
- Male
- With extensive knowledge in assembly and test package processes, various international package outlines, and reliability requirements
- Proficient in various problem solving tools and process optimization techniques such as, DOE, FMEA, QFD, SPC, design for manufacturability or assembly
- With knowledge of business creation processes such as, BCAM, OSRP, or other product development processes
- Competent in project analysis & management such as, MS Project, PERT/CPM, etc.

### (5) Test Product/RF Product Engineers

*Requirements:*

- Graduates of BS ECE/EE/COE/ME/Physics
- Fresh graduates of BS Physics may also submit their resumes
- At least 2 yrs relevant work experience in a semiconductor company
- With hands-on experience on test development/test qualification
- Computer Literate- UNIX, LINUX, C, C++
- RF theory and practices (actual testing of RF devices)
- Tester knowledge (applications for Teradyne, LTX)

### (5) Production Supervisors

*Requirements:*

- BS EE/ECE/ME graduates, or any related course
- Technically capable of understanding machine behavior and characteristics
- With working knowledge on programming & electromechanical processes
- With at least 3 years manufacturing management experience gained from a semicon, electronics, or FMCGs
- Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply, provided that they belong to the top of their class
- Male / Female

### (1) Sr. Design Engineer

*Requirements:*

- BS ME/ECE/COE graduate
- At least 5 years work experience in a semiconductors company
- Adept on mechanical designs, automation and semicon equipment upgrades
- Male

### (1) Chief Equipment Engineer

Requirements:

- BS ECE, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering graduate
- At least 10 years experience in semiconductor company
- 5 years experience in supervisory level or project management level
- Good knowledge of semiconductor assembly, test equipment and process

### (1) Failure Analysis Engineer

*Requirements:*

- BS ECE/EE//Physics/Chem Eng/ Metallurgical Eng graduate
- With at least 2 yrs relevant work experience in a semicon or electronics industry
- Knowledgeable on FA tools and techniques, 8D, FMEA, Problem Solving tools, Technical Writing, and Project Mgmt
- Computer Literate

### (1) Reliability Engineer

*Requirements:*

- BS ECE/EE/ME/Physics/Metallurgical Eng graduate
- At least 4 yrs relevant work experience
- With hands-on knowledge on 8D, FMEA, DOE, Quality, Problem Solving Tools & Techniques, Statistical Tools, Technical Writing, Project Management
- Computer Literate

### (1) Sr.Quality/Supplier Quality Engineers

*Requirements:*

- BS ECE/EE/ME/Material Science graduates
- At least 5 yrs work experience in process, quality or test engineering functions
- Knowledgeable on 8D, FMEA, DOE, Quality, Problem Solving Tools & Techniques, Statistical Tools and Technical Writing
- With working knowledge on IC manufacturing specifically, backend process, incoming inspection, & supplier performance management

### (1) Technical Training Specialist

*Requirements:*

- A graduate of Psychology, Engineering, or any related course
- With hands-on exposure in line orientation of operators or technicians
- With actual exposure on operator certification / de-certification
- Possesses effective oral & written communication skills
- With excellent interpersonal skills
- Proficient in MS Office applications
- Preferably with working knowledge in conducting TNA and Training Effectiveness Evaluation

### (1) Sr. C&B Specialist

*Requirements:*

- BS Psychology, Behavioral Science, or any related course graduate
- With knowledge on the design of compensation systems, salary structures, and the like
- With hands-on exposure in developing career ladders
- With hands-on exposure in introducing improvements for benefit programs and compensation processes
- With actual exposure in conducting Job Evaluation

### (1) Sr. HR Supervisor

*Requirements:*

- BS Psychology, Behavioral Science, or any related course graduate
- With at least 4 to 5 years related work experience as HR Generalist, with strong emphasis on IR/ER, OD, and Recruitment

### (1) Service Engineer

*Requirements:*

- BS Computer Engineering/IT/ComSci graduate
- With hands-on exposure on Network Admin, Firewall, PABX, and Desktop Support

**Interested applicants may submit their resumes on MS WORD format thru e-mail:**
**Philips Semiconductors Calamba Applicants- jhen.miranda@philips.com**
**Philips Semiconductors Cabuyao Applicants- chari.r.marquez@philips.com**

You may also submit your resume, outlining qualifications, experience, current and expected salaries online at **www.philips.com/careers.** Select 'Career Search' and select "Philippines" for country reference.

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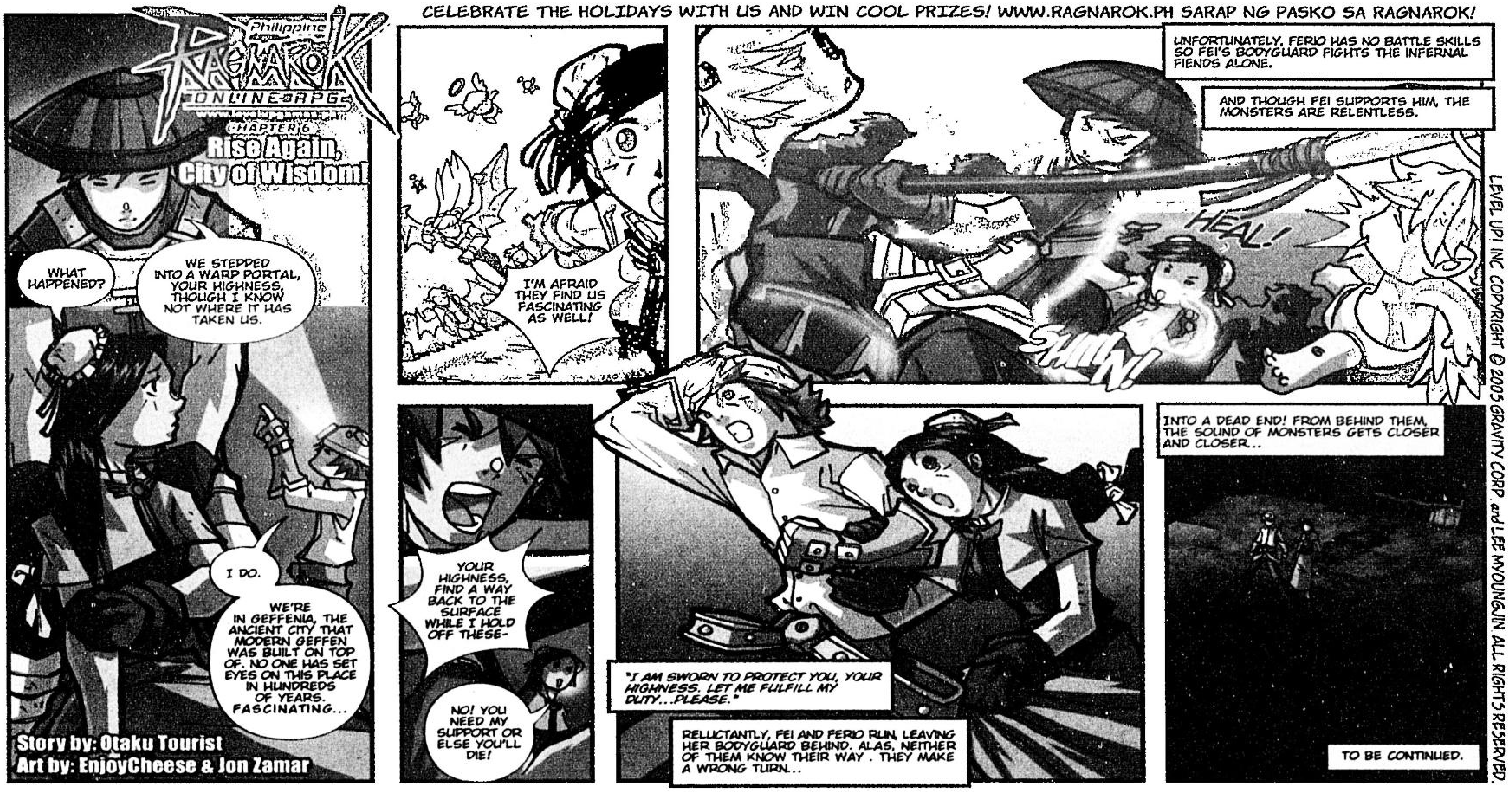
## RAGNAROK

**BY LEVEL UP GAMES**


CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH US AND WIN COOL PRIZES! WWW.RAGNAROK.PH SARAP NG PASKO SA RAGNAROK!
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
CHAPTER 6
Rise Again, City of Wisdom!
WHAT HAPPENED?
WE STEPPED INTO A WARP PORTAL, YOUR HIGHNESS, THOUGH I KNOW NOT WHERE IT HAS TAKEN US.
I DO.
WE'RE IN GEFFENIA, THE ANCIENT CITY THAT MODERN GEFFEN WAS BUILT ON TOP OF. NO ONE HAS SET EYES ON THIS PLACE IN HUNDREDS OF YEARS. FASCINATING...
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: EnjoyCheese & Jon Zamar
I'M AFRAID THEY FIND US FASCINATING AS WELL!
UNFORTUNATELY, FERIO HAS NO BATTLE SKILLS SO FEI'S BODYGUARD FIGHTS THE INFERNAL FIENDS ALONE.
AND THOUGH FEI SUPPORTS HIM, THE MONSTERS ARE RELENTLESS.
HEAL!
SHIIIN!
YOUR HIGHNESS, FIND A WAY BACK TO THE SURFACE WHILE I HOLD OFF THESE-
NO! YOU NEED MY SUPPORT OR ELSE YOU'LL DIE!
"I AM SWORN TO PROTECT YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS. LET ME FULFILL MY DUTY...PLEASE."
RELUCTANTLY, FEI AND FERIO RUN, LEAVING HER BODYGUARD BEHIND. ALAS, NEITHER OF THEM KNOW THEIR WAY . THEY MAKE A WRONG TURN...
INTO A DEAD END! FROM BEHIND THEM, THE SOUND OF MONSTERS GETS CLOSER AND CLOSER...
TO BE CONTINUED.
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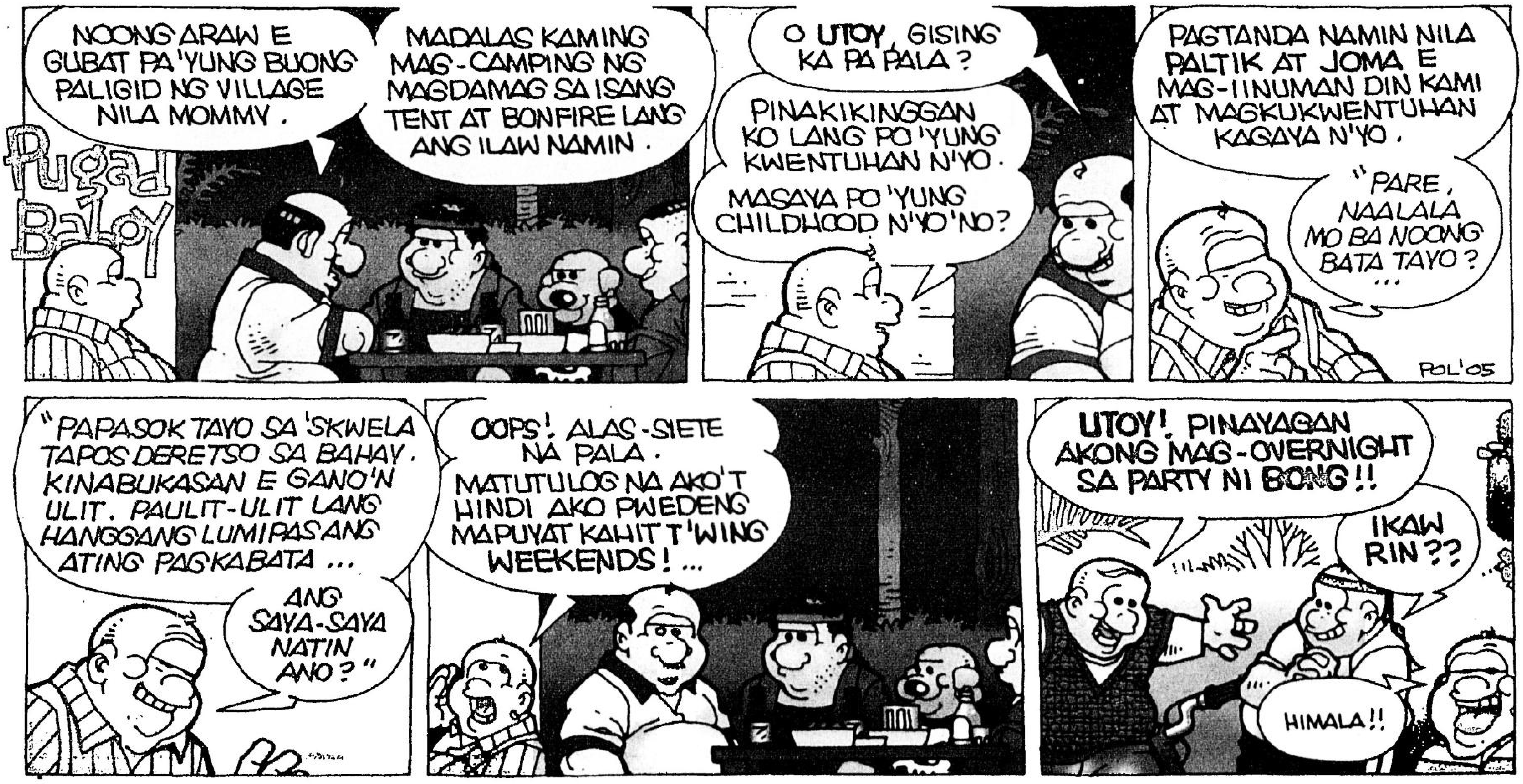
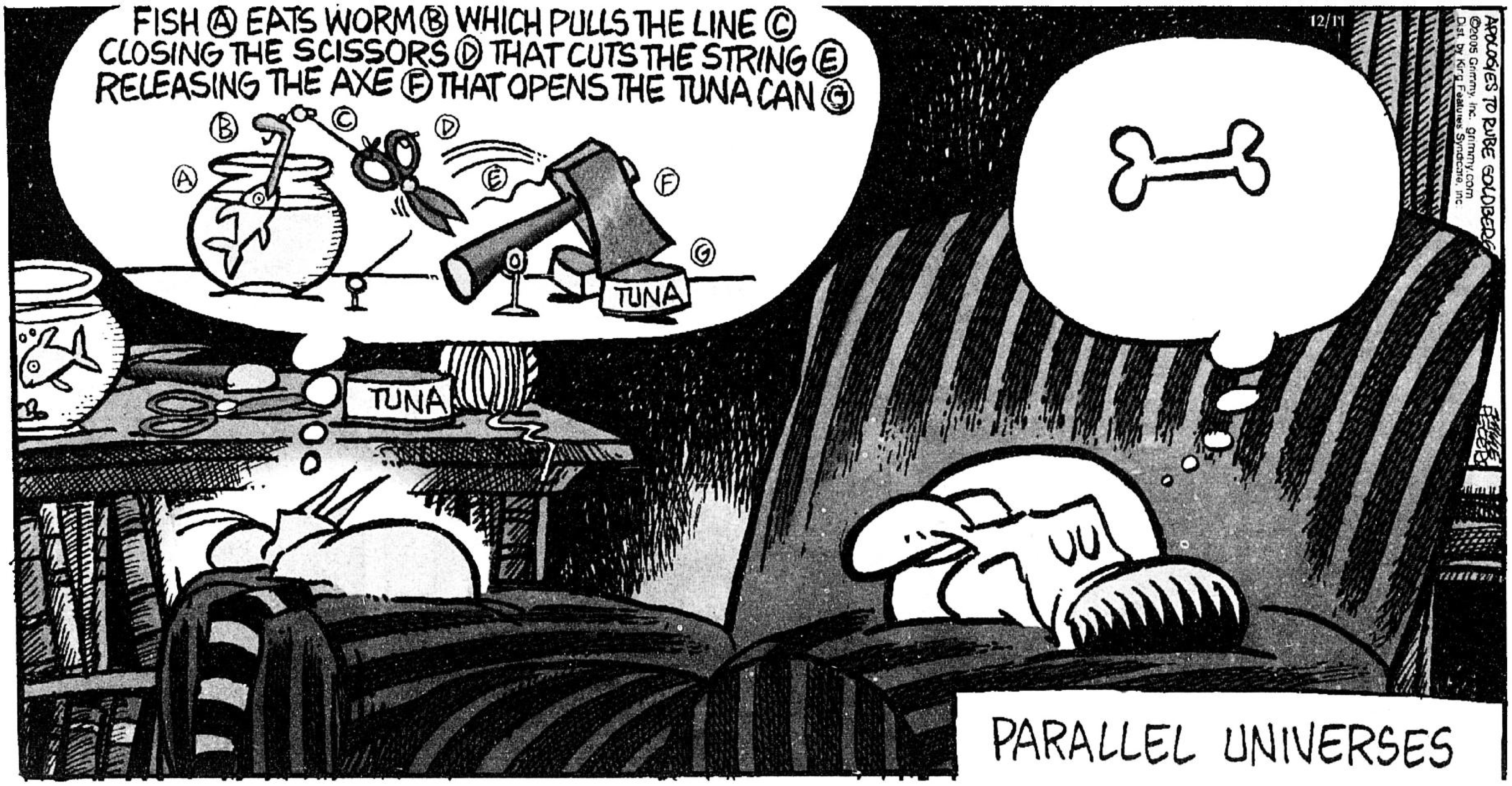
## PUGAD BABOY

**BY POL MEDINA JR.**


NOONG ARAW E GUBAT PA 'YUNG BUONG PALIGID NG VILLAGE NILA MOMMY.
MADALAS KAMING MAG-CAMPING NG MAGDAMAG SA ISANG TENT AT BONFIRE LANG ANG ILAW NAMIN.
Pugad Baboy
O UTOY, GISING KA PA PALA?
PINAKIKINGGAN KO LANG PO 'YUNG KWENTUHAN N'YO.
MASAYA PO 'YUNG CHILDHOOD N'YO 'NO?
PAGTANDA NAMIN NILA PALTIK AT JOMA E MAG-IINUMAN DIN KAMI AT MAGKUKWENTUHAN KAGAYA N'YO.
"PARE, NAALALA MO BA NOONG BATA TAYO? ...
POL '05
"PAPASOK TAYO SA 'SKWELA TAPOS DERETSO SA BAHAY. KINABUKASAN E GANO'N ULIT. PAULIT-ULIT LANG HANGGANG LUMIPAS ANG ATING PAGKABATA ...
ANG SAYA-SAYA NATIN ANO?"
OOPS! ALAS-SIETE NA PALA. MATUTULOG NA AKO'T HINDI AKO PWEDENG MAPUYAT KAHIT T'WING WEEKENDS! ...
UTOY! PINAYAGAN AKONG MAG-OVERNIGHT SA PARTY NI BONG!!
IKAW RIN??
HIMALA!!

## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


FISH Ⓐ EATS WORM Ⓑ WHICH PULLS THE LINE Ⓒ CLOSING THE SCISSORS Ⓓ THAT CUTS THE STRING Ⓔ RELEASING THE AXE Ⓕ THAT OPENS THE TUNA CAN Ⓖ
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
TUNA
TUNA
12/11
APOLOGIES TO RUBE GOLDBERG
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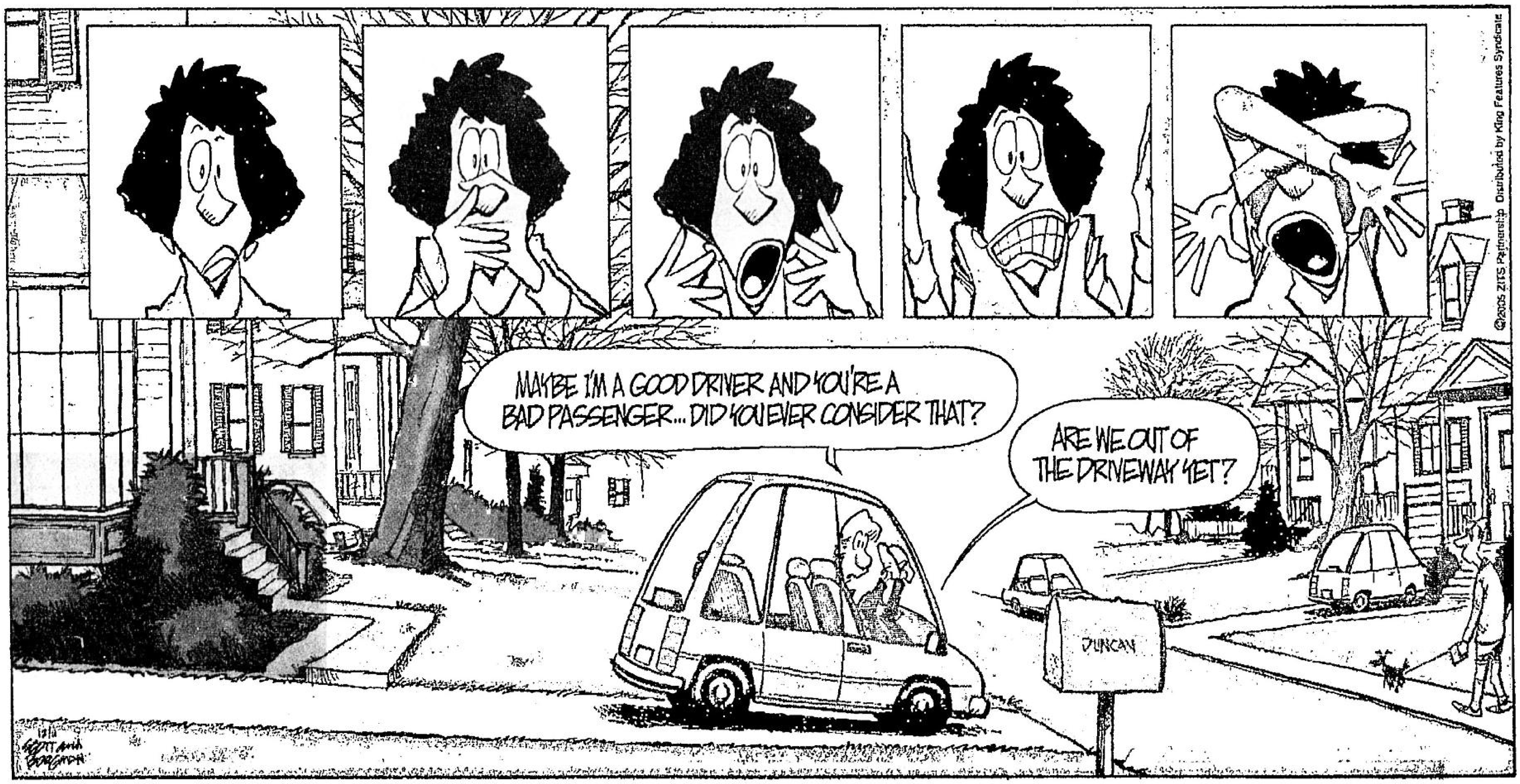
PARALLEL UNIVERSES

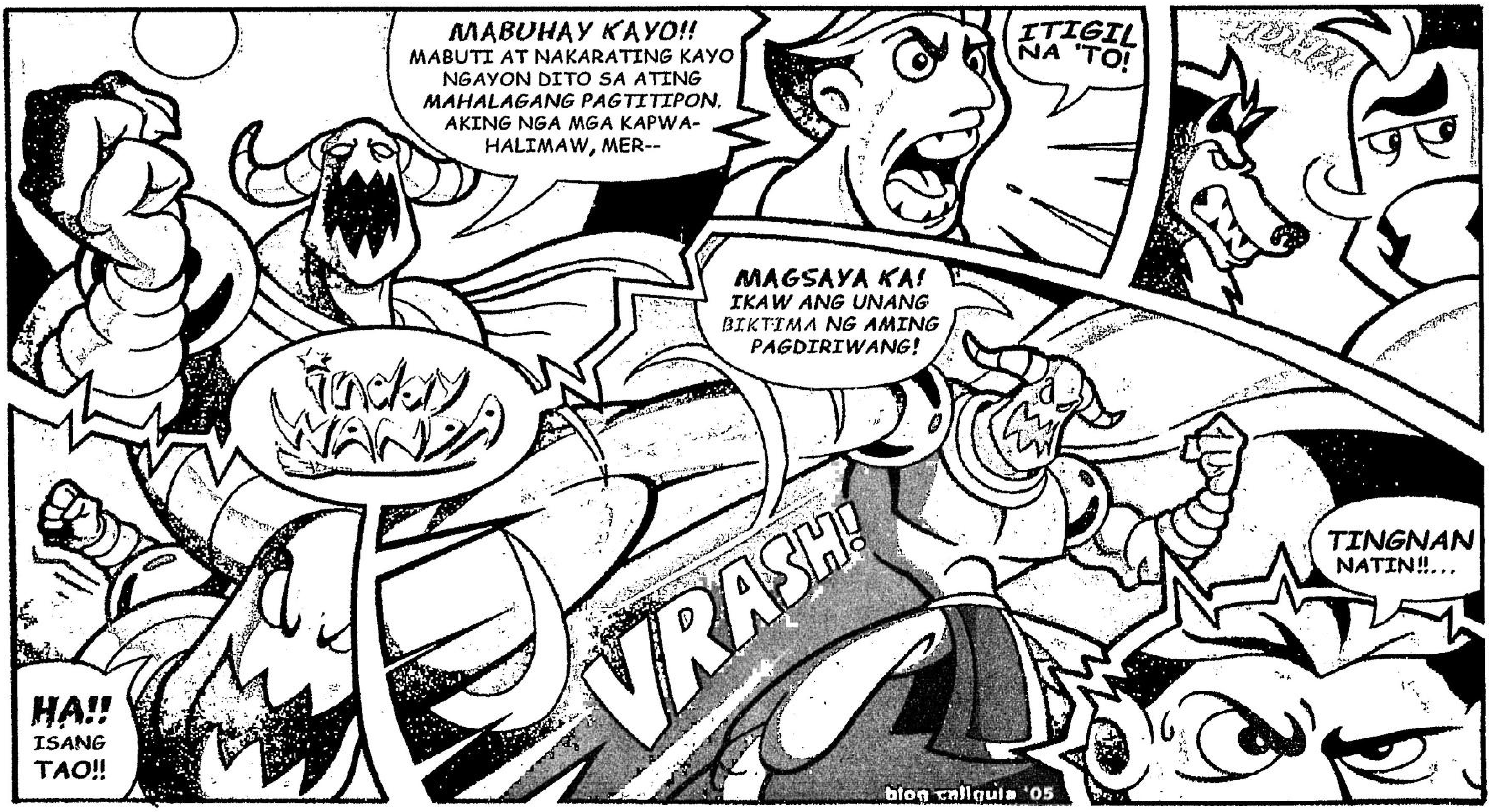
## ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


MAYBE I'M A GOOD DRIVER AND YOU'RE A BAD PASSENGER... DID YOU EVER CONSIDER THAT?
ARE WE OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY YET?
DUNCAN
©2005 ZITS Partnership Distributed by King Features Syndicate
12/11 SCOTT AND BORGMAN

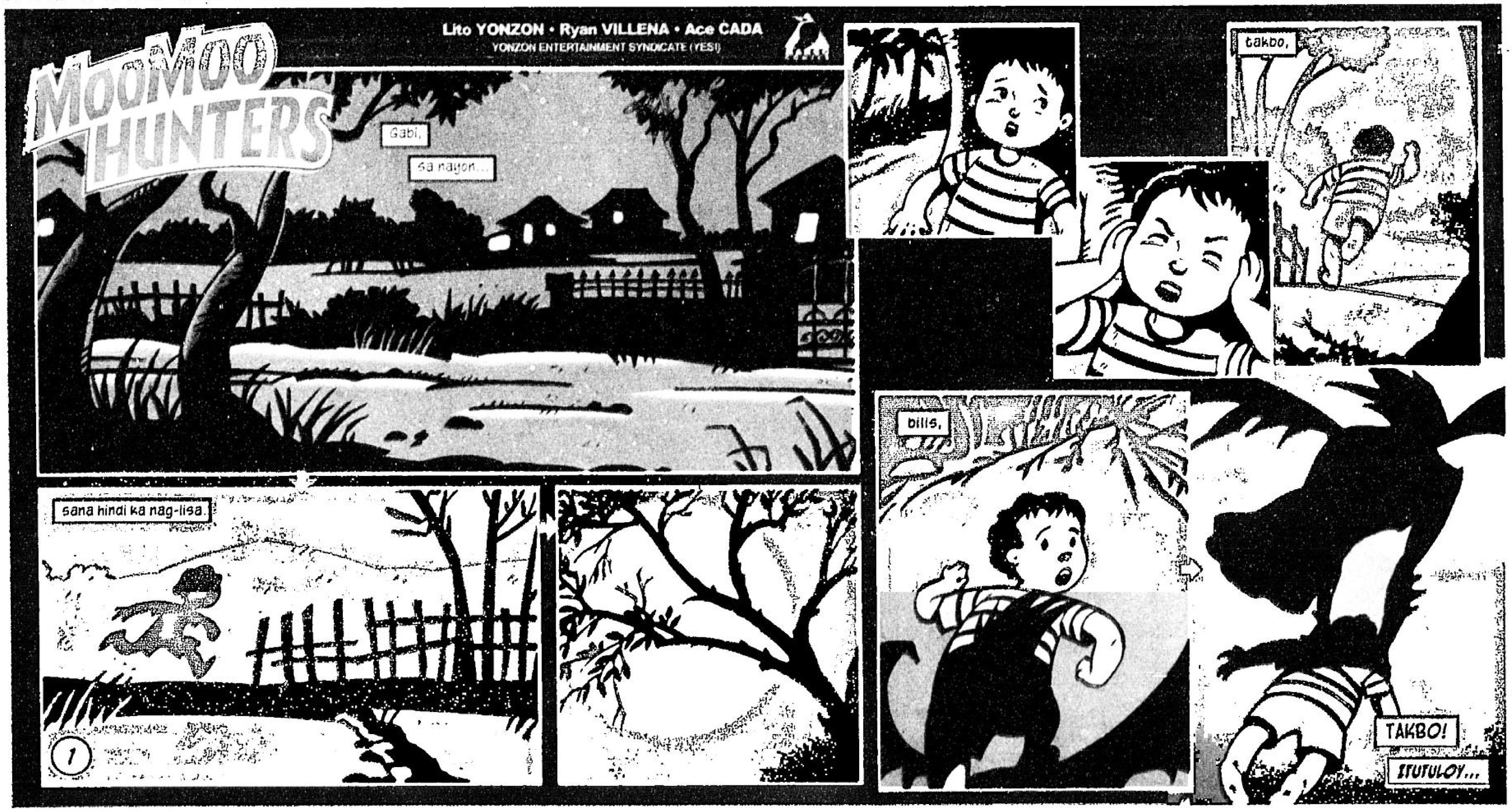
## INDAY WANDA

**BY BLOG CALIGUIA**


MABUHAY KAYO!! MABUTI AT NAKARATING KAYO NGAYON DITO SA ATING MAHALAGANG PAGTITIPON. AKING NGA MGA KAPWA-HALIMAW, MER--
ITIGIL NA 'TO!
MAGSAYA KA! IKAW ANG UNANG BIKTIMA NG AMING PAGDIRIWANG!
Inday WANDA
VRASH!
TINGNAN NATIN!!...
HA!! ISANG TAO!!
blog caligula '05

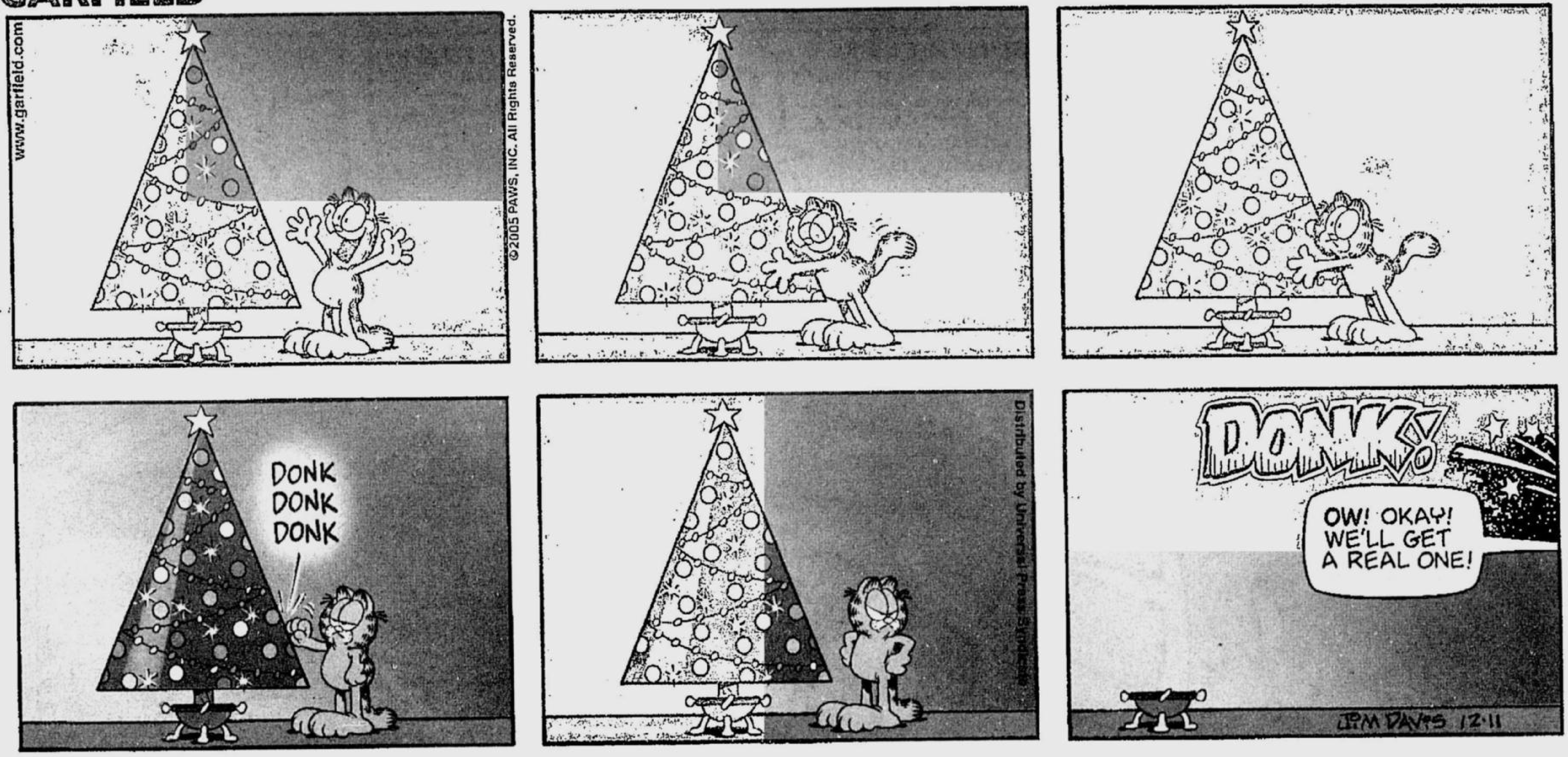
## MOOMOO HUNTERS

**BY MANGO COMICS**


MooMoo HUNTERS
Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)
Gabi,
sa nayon...
sana hindi ka nag-iisa.
1
takbo,
bilis,
TAKBO!
ITUTULOY...

## GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


www.garfield.com
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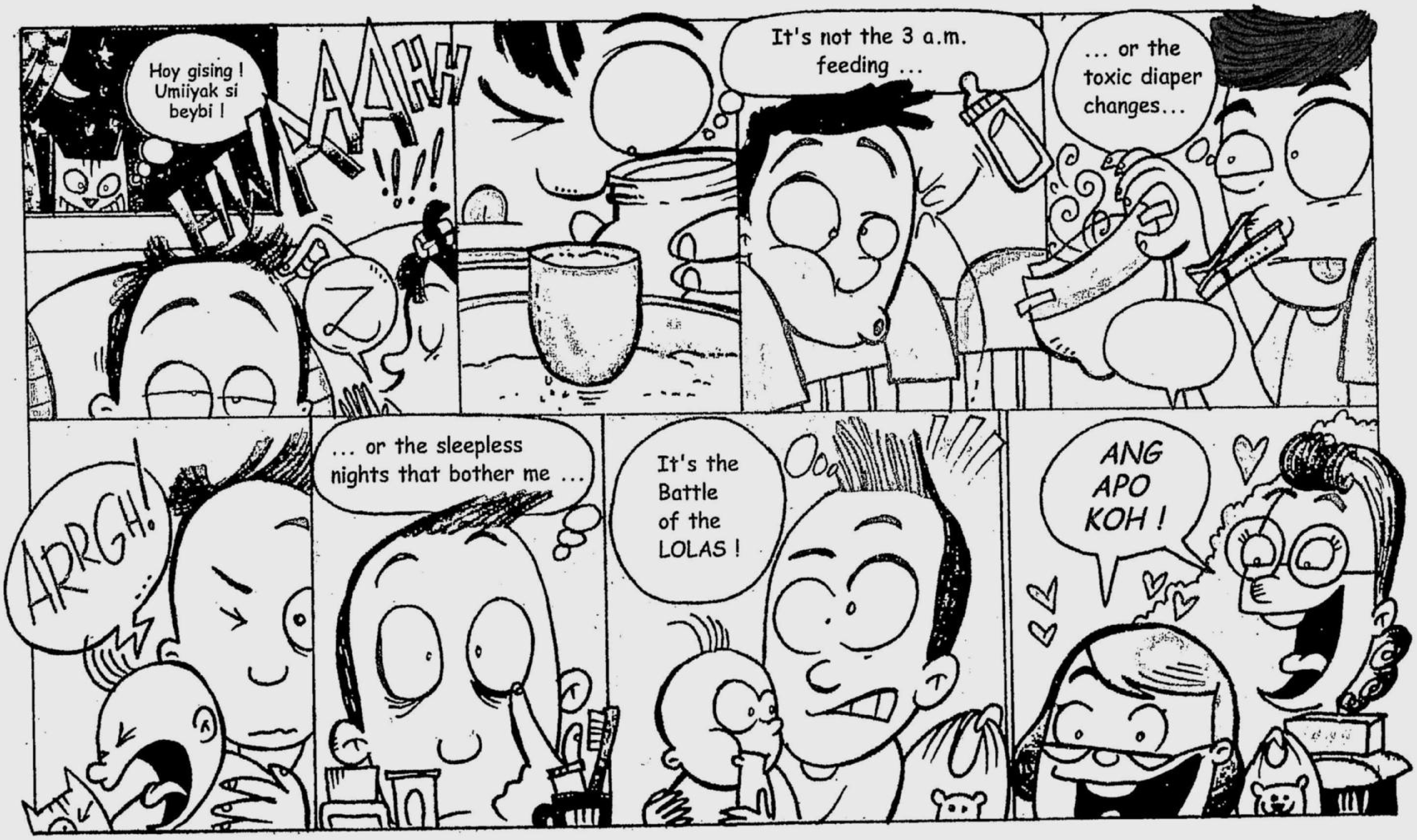
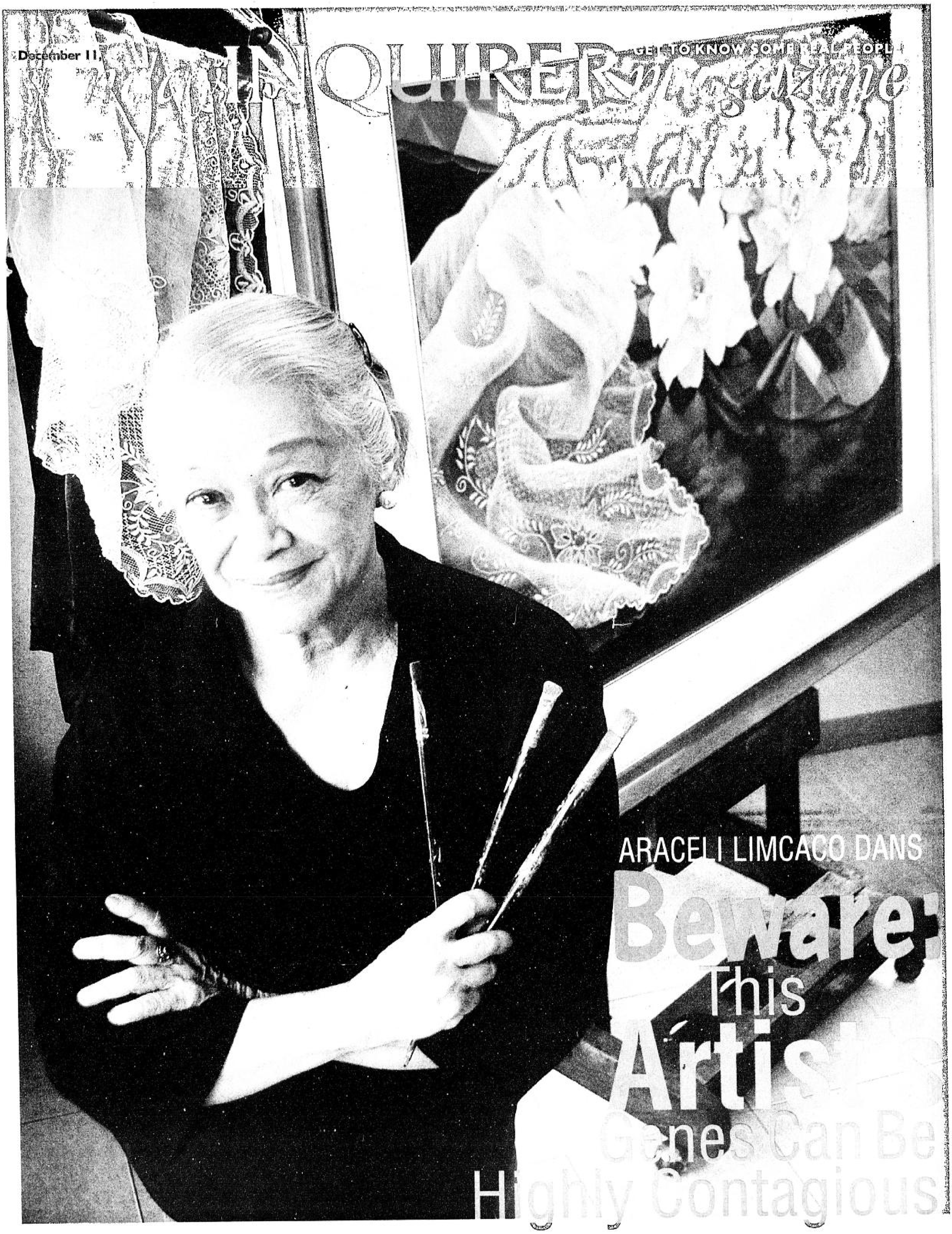
DONK DONK DONK
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
DONK!
OW! OKAY! WE'LL GET A REAL ONE!
JIM DAVIS 12·11

## FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


Hoy gising ! Umiiyak si beybi !
WAAAHH
!!/!!
It's not the 3 a.m. feeding ...
... or the toxic diaper changes...
ARRGH!
... or the sleepless nights that bother me ...
It's the Battle of the LOLAS !
ANG APO KOH !

December 11,
INQUIRER Magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPL



## ARACELI LIMCACO DANS

# Beware: This Artist's Genes Can Be Highly Contagious

*by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz*
*photographs by Raffy Lerma*

**EVERYONE she touches turns into an artist, or so it seems.**

**Also known as a generous and patient mentor in local art circles, painter Araceli Dans has inadvertently coaxed the artist out of her gardener, her physical therapist, the son of a La Salle carpenter, and a former pupil, among others. Most of her unlikely students just happened to have observed her at work, says Dans, and asked to be given tips on how to get started.**

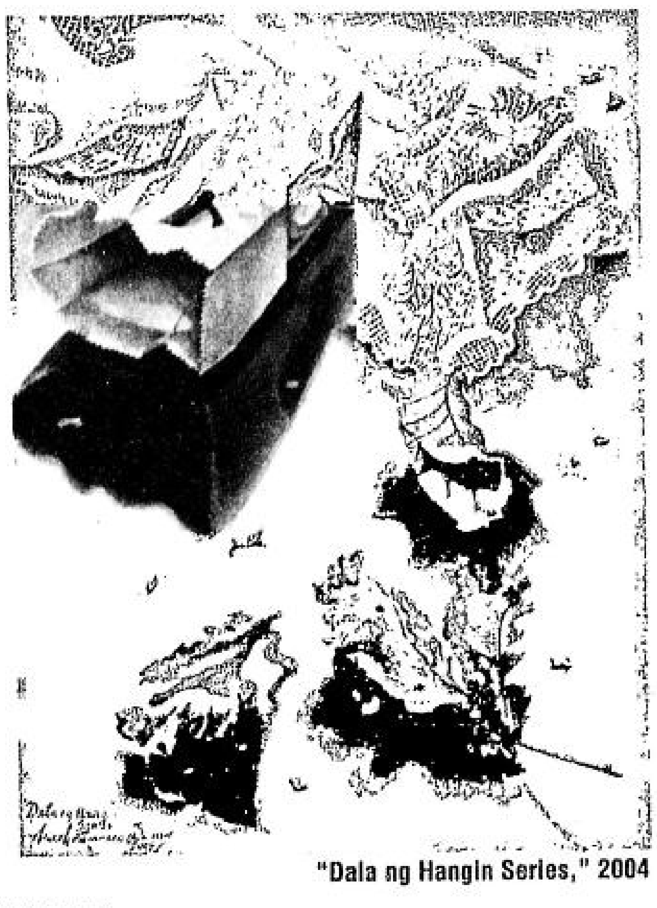
So, is there a surfeit of artist's genes in her that they simply overflowed to the nearest soul around? Laughs Dans: "No, I just believe that when God gives us a talent, He also expects us to share it."

And that she does, actively wielding the brush these past 68 years with no signs of slowing down even at 76. Indeed, Dans has gone a long way from doing fashion sketches for Ilang-Ilang Magazine as a young working student in 1948, to become one of the country's most respected artists. "I had to be self-supporting because I came from a broken home," she says matter-of-factly of her initiation into the arts when she was 8.

Those hungry years that shaped her life and her style are amply recorded in "Araceli Limcaco Dans," a book she recently launched to coincide with "Retrospective," an art exhibit of her past and current works, ongoing until Dec. 20 at the Art Center in SM Megamall, Mandaluyong.

The book traces the development of Dans' art, from the fashion drawings in her own column, "*Pitak ni Cely*," to her acclaimed *calado* paintings, the detailed rendition of lacework that has become identified with her. "I was paid P45 a page for *'Iba't ibang hugis ng damit'* (different fashions), and it became my bread and butter, " recalls this artist, who also modeled for Pitoy Moreno when the couturier was starting out.

**To page 3**



"Dala ng Hangin Series," 2004

**Known for her *calado* or lacework series, this multi-awarded painter, who learned at the feet of contemporary Filipino Masters Fernando Amorsolo, Anita Magsaysay-Ho and Guillermo Tolentino, takes as much pride in being an art educator and turning the unlikeliest souls into artists**

Her Samson Has Four Legs, *p.6*

From Screen Goddess to Domestic Goddess, *p.8*

Survivors' Tales

*by Laarni Ilagan*

# Another Battered Woman Who Might Have Died, But Lived to Tell Her Story of Love & Folly

Straight shooter: Mina Idao as an NPA recruit

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Raped at 16 and forced to marry her attacker, Mina Idao turned to drugs, alcohol and the underground leftist movement to forget her troubles. Her latest ordeal almost consigned her to a human rights statistic**

**BAGUIO CITY—The doctors gave her up for dead when they saw her mangled body. She could have been just another battered woman who died at the hands of a lover.**

But Fermina "Mina" Idao, 46, survived the horrible hacking by her common-law husband of eight years, Jersey Ampaguey, in their remote farm in Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya.

"It was a miracle," Mina says of her survival.

She recalls how, at around 8 in the morning of January 21, Jersey accused her of having an affair when she refused to have sex with him. Drugged and intoxicated, he hacked her in blind rage with a knife. It took more than five hours before she was brought to the Sacred Heart Hospital in San Jose, Nueva Ecija.

Recounts Mina: "Our adopted son ran to our nearest neighbor 30 minutes away for help, but Jersey had followed, with his clothes drenched in my blood. He told them, 'We were fighting. She is dead, and she is my life. I really love her.'" He also told the police that Mina was dead. "He really believed that he had killed me, so the police did not rush over to save me," Mina adds. By the time the police came, it was 1 o'clock, and they were shocked to find her alive.

"I remember walking to seek help. But I felt woozy, went back and then blacked out," she recalls. Police saw the trail of blood leading away from the house. "I later learned that I poured Betadine on my wounds and tried to cut pillowcases with scissors for a tourniquet," says Mina.

### Shattered bones

The blade pierced halfway through her neck, broke a rib, and shattered the bones of the arm she used to try and shield herself from his madness. Her fingers hung by the skin because she had tried to stop the blows to her head and face with her hands. She also suffered deep head wounds.

But Mina's ordeal in the hands of her partner was just the latest in a series of misfortunes that she had suffered since she was 16, when a family friend in his late thirties raped her. The sex was so violent she had to be stitched up in a hospital. The rape also forced her into marriage at the insistence of her relatives. They got married under Tingguian rites in Malibcong, Abra, their native home.

Four years and two children later, he left for the Middle East as a contract worker. She later learned that he had a mistress who bore him a child. Mina turned to alcohol and drugs to escape her pain. She drifted into love affairs with other men in a skewed attempt to get even with her husband. She was in her early twenties, a single mother raising two very young children, living recklessly and splurging the allowance her husband continued to send for a while.

"He raped me, and when finally I learned to love him, he betrayed me," she says.

Mina's story mirrors similar tales about abused women that prompted the United Nations to draft an international Bill of Rights for women known as CEDAW, or the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Philippines signed and ratified CEDAW 25 years ago in 1981. Today, women's groups are looking to CEDAW to address discriminatory practices and customs that put women like Mina at a disadvantage.

Back then, however, Mina had very little faith in the law. But her downward spiral caught the attention of her first cousin, the late rebel priest and New People's Army (NPA) leader, Conrado Balweg (aka *Ka* Ambo), who invited her to join his camp in Kalinga. She gave up drinking and drugs and became part of the Leftist underground movement. Pursued by the military, she had to leave her children behind.

Once, during hot pursuit, a well-known plastic surgeon who was hiding her and her comrades in his posh residence in Manila offered to alter her face to hide her identity. But Mina refused, preferring to live dangerously. She recruited idealists in schools, acted in revolutionary skits and organized symposiums. She was also trained for dangerous missions. "When a woman in the camp had to give birth, I had to bring her to a hospital. I covered for people in Manila who had a high profile in the movement, until we moved to Baguio in 1981," Mina recalls.

### Cruel ordeal

In 1983, Mina and Balweg's wife, Corazon (Azon), were captured in Mina's apartment in Baguio, "We were under surveillance for three months by the National Intelligence Security Agency. Azon was supposed to be captured in the company of an aunt, alias *Ka* Girlie, but the masked and heavily-armed men who barged in mistook me for Azon and Azon for *Ka* Girlie," she said. The error set Mina up for a cruel ordeal.

Blindfolded and tied to a chair with a gun pressed against her temple, Mina had to fight off a rape attempt in the darkness, and loosened the bonds that tied her hands in the process. She used this to advantage, raising her blindfold secretly whenever a person was brought in. She recognized a cousin and called out to him for help. "He vouched that I was not Balweg's wife, and so they released me," Mina narrates—but only after she was subjected to severe torture.

"'They beat me up till I was black and blue. They electrocuted my hands. I was screaming in pain. But I was determined not to squeal on Balweg's whereabouts,'" Mina recounts. The soldiers kicked her with their combat shoes and slapped her face every time they did not like her answer. She is now deaf in one ear from the slapping.

The trauma for her children still haunts her. It was 8 in the evening when the soldiers came and dragged them away. Her young daughter ran after them, biting the soldier and crying, "Where are you taking my mama? When I grow up, I will take revenge on you for mama." Mina returned at dawn, bruised and bleeding, and found her children alone and locked up in the room, her jewelry, clothes, and money looted. The frightened house help had deserted them. The two scared children sat there all night. "When I arrived, my daughter could only say, 'Mama, Mama,' in despair and relief."

But the hunt for her on charges of subversion commenced right after her release. Lawyers from the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) and Baguio journalists, including the late Peppot Ilagan, took turns hiding her. It was painful to leave her small children, one of them ailing, with her sister and a nanny. In time, her lawyers decided it might be safer for her to surrender because her children might be worse off with her in hiding.

Mina was detained for six months at Camp Dangwa in La Trinidad, Benguet. Six months felt like forever because of the mental torture, she says. Her lawyers, who knew that there was a plan to kill her if Balweg did not surface, befriended her guards.

### Love as folly

Fortunately, martial law came to an abrupt end when Marcos was ousted and Corazon Aquino became Philippine president. Balweg forged the now historic Mt. Data Peace Pact with the Aquino administration, which formed the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, to lure leftist guerillas back into the fold of the law.

It was time for Mina to make life secure for her children. She worked in Hong Kong for a German and Chinese couple and saved up. Today, she finds much solace in her children. Lynlyn, a consistent honor student from primary school to college, graduated *summa cum laude* from the St. Louis University, then again *cum laude* in Nursing at the Pines City Educational College last March. Her son Jay, a computer engineering graduate, is already in the United States, working out her papers for her to join him there.

But for all her fortitude, love proved to be her folly. When she returned from Hong Kong, Mina met and secretly carried on a relationship with Jersey, a drug addict and an alcoholic. Once, out of drunkenness, he hit his mother, who thereafter banished him to a farm in Nueva Vizcaya. Mina followed Jersey, which chilled her relationship with her daughter. "He was always jealous. When he was drunk, he hallucinated that I had lovers, like that day he almost killed me," she says of him.

She has realized her folly as well. "I may have had many shortcomings, but I raised my children well. Now it's time for me to think of my life," muses Mina. Her biggest prayer is for healing between her and her estranged daughter. Now working as a nanny, she expresses contentment at her present station: "It is a dignified job that earns me my own money," she says.

*Women's Feature Service*

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|---|---|
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## Wedding

Constant rain fenced off
That far mountain
But there Grandfather built
A chapel by a stream

A big tall rock stood guard on the west
Smaller ones dotted the sunlit flow southward

One could almost touch the clouds,
Mother recalls.

In that war
She was eighteen and unafraid.
Still, Father checked the chapel grounds
For their wedding

And down below
Where the stream forks towards a deep forest
The enemy could come before the priest

And throw the vows into the water

Mother's smile overflows,
As the stream in the rain

The chapel bell
Resonant in the mountain of her belly

**Ma. Milagros T. Dumdum**

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

THE SUNDAY INQUIRER MAG

# Fun, Functional and Free, Here Are The Real Folk

**WITH the off-kilter humor and instinctive efficiency palpable in every meeting and production session, the SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE is probably the one section in the INQUIRER where freedom of expression is most visibly and constantly tested, and friendships stretched to accommodate each staffer's idiosyncracies.**

As important as deadlines is getting along, which in turn is reflected in the consistent, well-measured whimsy and impeccable prose found in the section. At any one time, Editor in Chief Alya Honasan can be found strapped to the computer, taking care of this issue's business, while proudly narrating the latest adventures of her beloved yellow lab Banana. Managing Editor Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz is as likely to have her phone grafted to her ear as she discusses with contributors their latest assignments, as she is crafting her crazy photo captions for the SIM's rogues' gallery (come up and see it some time, but don't bring anybody too straight or too famous with you!).

Associate Editor Ruey De Vera can be as focused on directing photo shoots as he is on reading comic books. The quietest (but arguably the most macabre) member of the group, staffwriter and preeminent rock-ologist Eric Caruncho, will often be indulging his taste for esoteric Asian cinema and the grotesque offerings of the Net, as well as churning out spectacularly tongue-in-cheek cover stories. The staff has their share of advocacies (Alya: the Environment, Pennie: Women's Rights) and obsessions (Ruey: Sports, Eric: Turntables) but all share a belief in the product and a genuine affection for each other's work.

Sunday family: (L to R) Ruey De Vera, Eric Caruncho, Alya Honasan, Pennie dela Cruz, Chuchie Quevedo-See and Sharon Felipe

Editorial Assistant Sharon Felipe is really the unflappable glue that keeps it all together, while her not-so-evil twin sister, the alarmingly saccharine Graphic Designer Chuchie Quevedo-See, makes sure nobody gets hungry or misses on the latest news from downstairs.

Through the years, SIM has profiled presidents and prisoners, superstars and sexy stars, the up-and-coming, the has-beens, the woulda-beens, the irreverent and the relevant; it's poetry and power, humor and humanity.

The magazine is almost 20, and has passed through the capable hands of five other editors, from now INQUIRER EIC Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc and sports columnist Recah Trinidad, to now-Saturday Special editor Nestor U. Torre, to our new Readers' Advocate Lorna Kalaw Tirol and book author Karla Delgado.

Yet in every issue and in every shared meal, the SIM staff celebrates the diversity of colleagues in an office family that is fun and functional. This here are real people, folks, the sort who probably won't get into the magazine's pages, but boy, the stories they could tell on each other! **RSDV**

# Araceli...*from page 1*

More than just indulging in nostalgia, the retrospective is meant to be art education material, says this founder of the Philippine Art Educators' Association. "One of my students, Joven Ignacio, urged me to go on the record, to educate the public on how a painter evolves. One has to keep improving because it's dangerous to become self-satisfied. You become cocky and you stop growing," explains Dan.

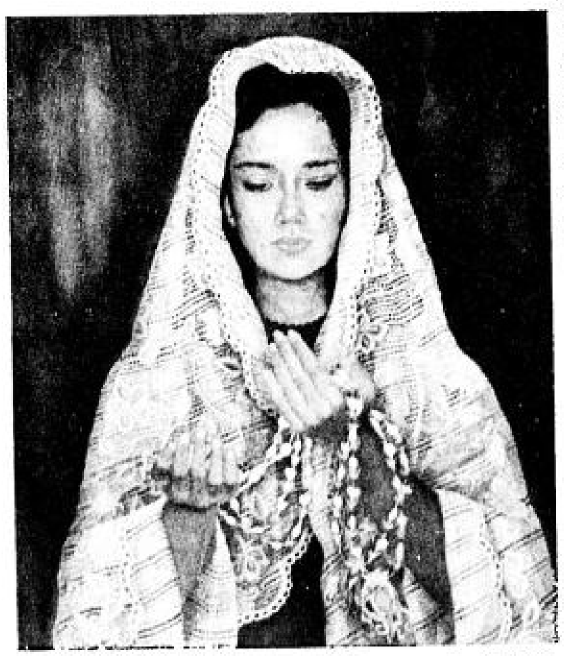
Her biggest dream at the moment, she adds, is to have three more books on art education for all school levels.

Dans' passion for teaching shows no sign of waning, as friends and recent acquaintances quickly become enamored students.

Physical therapist Azor Pazcoguin came to see the artist after Dans' back operation. "He was into this so-called Mabini art, but when he saw my work, he said he wanted to become a serious artist. I was in bed for three months and well, I had time in my hands," she says. The therapist-turned-artist recently exhibited in a New York group show.

Then there was Felipe Mayoya, the family gardener who has been tending their company house in Baguio for the past 20 years. "He would ask me endless questions while I painted and I ended up giving him not just art lessons, but also art materials that he used for his first art exhibit. *Aba,* sold-out!" she says of the Grade 6 dropout's initial art show.

Architect Joven Ignacio, who used to be Dans' student at the Ateneo elementary school, also looked her up to ask if his bird paintings in watercolor were worthy of an exhibit. His exhibit ended up at the British Council. Ignacio later referred Aladin Antiqueño, the son of a La Salle carpenter, to Dans who was suitably impressed with the guy's first show, also at the British Council. The PWU Fine Arts graduate is now among Dans' seven protegés, whom she would rather describe as her "young colleagues."


"Sampaguita," 1994

Two of Dans' other students can best be described as "ageless": writers Gilda Cordero-Fernando and Sylvia Mendez-Ventura. Both members of Women Plus, a small group of midlifers who meet once a month to talk and to bond, they immediately became art converts after Dans showed them a slideshow of her paintings. The two recently held a joint exhibit.

But while Dans the mentor can be infinitely patient and forbearing, Dans the portrait artist wasn't. "Portraits paid very well and I used to enjoy doing them," she recalls. "I would talk to my subjects at length while mixing the pigments so I could analyze their character and reflect that in my art." But dismay started seeping in when some of her sitters posed impossible demands. "Some of them wanted 20 years off their face, or 30 pounds off their bodies. So I asked myself, why should I prostitute my art just to indulge the vanity of some people?"

## Painstaking lacework

That's when Dans shifted to still life "because objects can't tell me what to do," she adds. And that's how she came upon the *calado*, painting lacework with painstaking precision and amazing detail. The subject presented unique challenges in execution, while allowing her to retain her Filipino identity, says Dans. She adds that she got her inspiration from 19th century Filipino masters like Damian Domingo, who painted people around them in their native costumes. "I always made sure that I situate the *calado* in a localized and native environment: hung out to dry in a backyard *sampayan* (clothesline) or peeking out of a tattered *balikbayan* box."

The calado in Dans' art made political statements, as well. "It was so elegant, it was ripe for contrast," she

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Getting to Know Fiber

Q: What is dietary fiber?
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Q: Why is fiber important in my diet?
A: Fiber is important because it offers a lot of health benefits: lowers blood cholesterol, helps regulate blood sugar levels, helps control body weight, prevents constipation and promotes bowel regularity

Q: Where can I get fiber?
A: Fruits and vegetables are great sources of fiber. It can also be obtained from wheat, barley, rye, corn and rice, and other whole-grain foods. However, there are also readily-available fiber supplements in the market, like FiberMate, to help augment your daily fiber requirement.

Q: What is Fibermate and how does FiberMate work?
A: Fibermate is a dietary fiber supplement containing psyllium, one of the best sources of dietary fiber. When dissolved in water and ingested, it becomes a gelatinous mass and swells up to 20 times its volume. It traps toxins and harmful residues and flushes them out together with the stool.

Q. How does FiberMate help lower blood cholesterol?
A: It binds with the cholesterol-containing bile acids in the gastrointestinal tract and carries them out of the body as waste. This lowers both total and bad cholesterol levels in the blood - thus reducing the risk of heart disease.

Q: How does FiberMate help regulate blood sugar levels?.
A: FiberMate slows down the absorption of carbohydrates so blood sugar is prevented from rising steeply after a meal.

Q: How does FiberMate help control body weight?
A: When FiberMate is taken at least 30 minutes before a meal, it creates a feeling of fullness, thus resulting in less food intake. It also contains very minimal calories.

Q: How does FiberMate help in relieving constipation?
A: FiberMate increases the bulk of the stools and stimulates the large intestines to contract. Because stools are softer and bulkier, evacuation is easier, thus minimizing the strain that usually causes hemorrhoids.

Q: How do I take FiberMate?
A: Mix a heaping teaspoon of FiberMate with a glass of cold water and drink immediately. Drink another glass of water right after. Those taking other medicines should drink FiberMate at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after medicine intake. When taking FiberMate, be sure to drink more water (6 to 8 glasses) to maintain fluid balance.

Q: How much FiberMate do I need in a day?
A: In addition to your regular diet, drinking FiberMate 1 to 3 times daily can help you reach the recommended fiber intake of 25 to 35 grams a day*.

*Source: US FDA

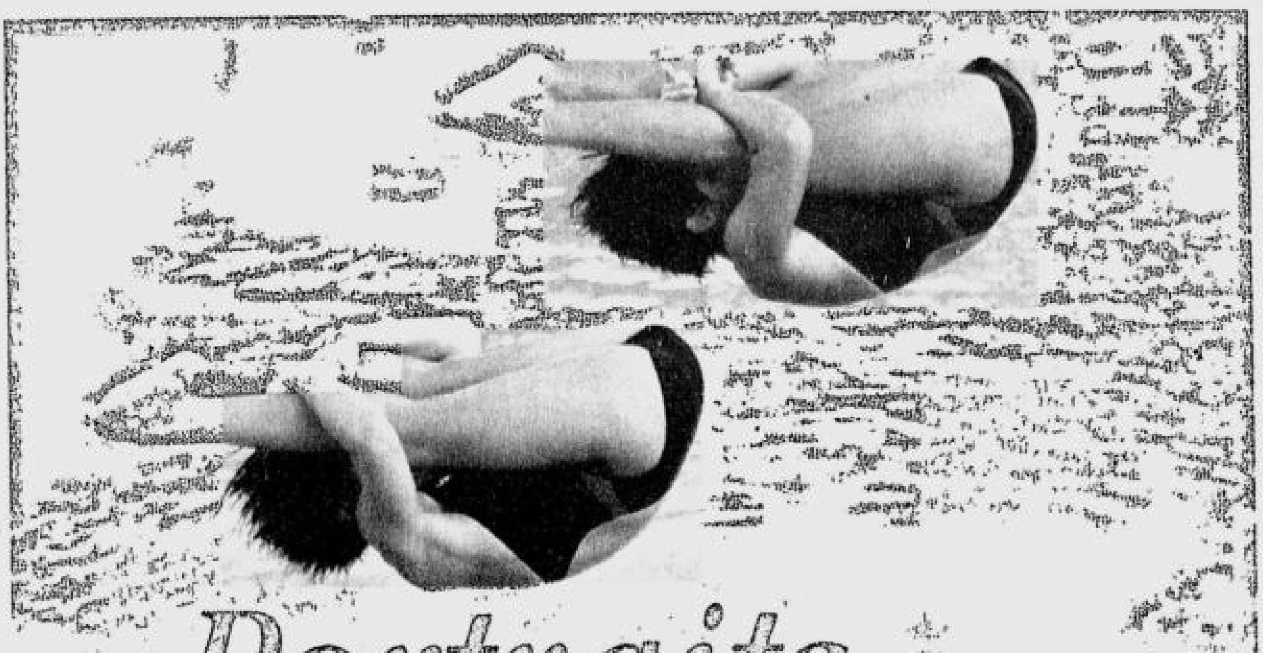
Ask your doctor about the many health benefits of fiber.

FiberMate

*Fibermate is available in supermarkets, drugstores, and health-fitness retail outletse*

# Portraits of the Filipino As Athlete

We pay tribute to the members of Team Philippines—and their very human moments—in the SEA Games through this collection of dramatic INQUIRER photographs



Perfect harmony: Shiela Mae Perez and Seceil Domenios made an early splash by topping the Women's 3m Springboard Synchronized Diving event

EDWIN BACASMAS

**HE FINISH** lines have all been crossed and the anthems celebrated but the Filipinos' outstanding haul of precious metals during the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games in Manila remains etched in memory like the engraving on medals.

Beyond the medal tallies and the rhetoric about winning, the SEA Games were an opportunity to witness, in full, unaffected honesty, the extremes of emotion and the swiftness of circumstance. In portraits of the trials and triumphs of the Filipino as athlete, here are some breathtaking images from the 23rd SEA Games as seen through the eagle eyes of the INQUIRER's lensmen.

Oh, no: Anguish is etched on Eduardo Buenavista's face as his gold medal finish in the 5,000m run is disqualified

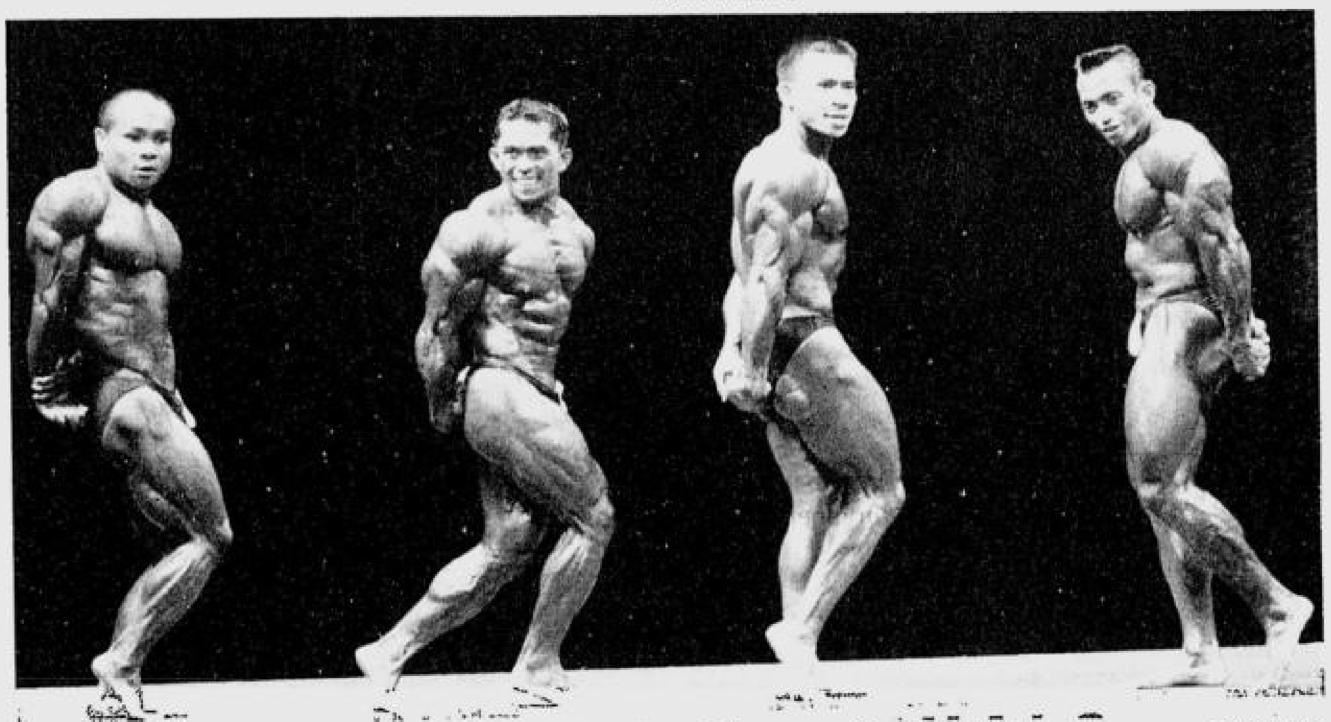
RYAN LIM

JUN RAPANAN

Babe having a blast: Jayvie Agojo keeps her eye on the prize as she swings her way out of the 12th hole

LYN RILLON

Quite a stretch: Rhythmic gymnast Danica Calapatan shows what flexibility is all about



RAFFY LERMA

Watch me now: Making sure the muscles for both his smile and his pose are flexed, Michael Borenaga (second from left) takes to the stage in the Bodybuilding Bantamweight category

JESS YUSON

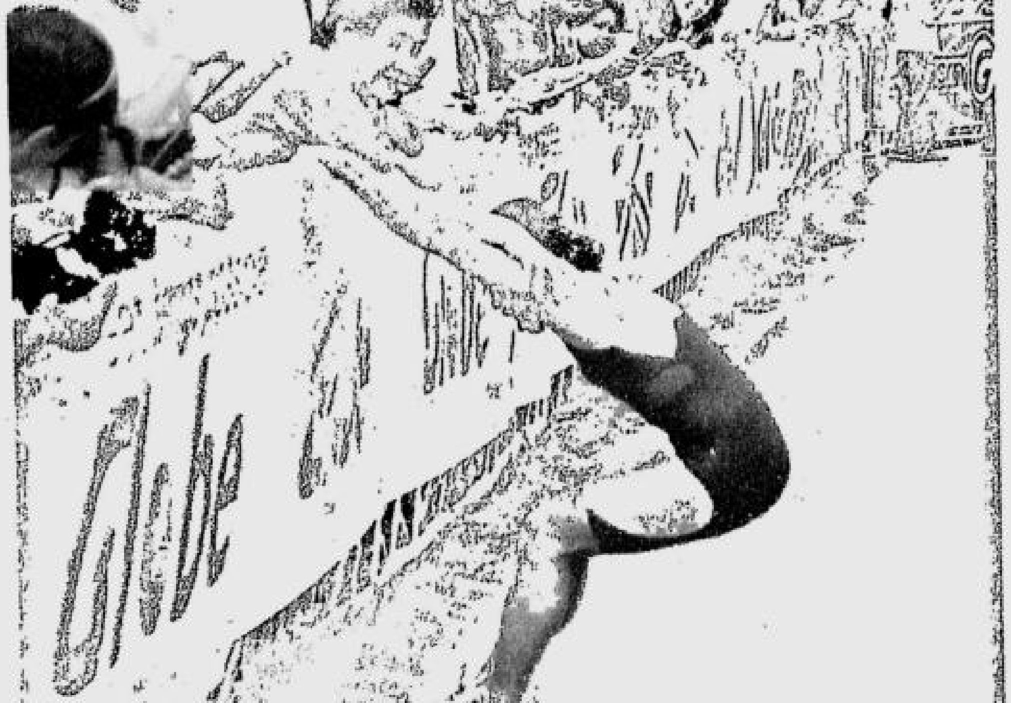
Drama queen: Tension is clear on the faces of this father and daughter as they watch RP woodpusher Catherine Pereña (left) make her move

EGAY MONTAÑA

Show and tell: Equstrienne Toni Leviste and her mount gracefully clear the bar in the Showjumping event

ROGER MARGAL

D'Oh: Veteran shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla realizes he missed the gold in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol



ROMY HOMILLADA

Helping hand: Triathlete Ani Karina De Leon gets a supportive tug from mother Anna Leah Sarabia at the finish of the Triathlon

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

The wheel to win: Cyclist Alfie Catalan puts not a pedal wrong in the race to the gold medal

RUDY ESPERAS

Pocket master: Lee Van Corteza exults after bagging the gold in the 8-Ball Doubles

*by Jerry E. Esplanada*
*photographs by Erik Arazas*

# Life Begins at 85 for This Grand Old Man of Philippine Politics

**He's way past retirement age, but former Senator Jovito Salonga remains a potent voice in national affairs—maybe because he's got a lot to say and has risked his life twice to stand up for what's right**

**WILL Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano tell all about the wiretapping controversy and drag his alleged phone pal, President Macapagal-Arroyo down with him?**

Should that happen and she is ousted from office, the President should welcome martyrdom, declares former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga, who is widely regarded as the wise old man of Philippine politics. Like the martyrs among Christ's apostles, she will be at peace with God and with her conscience, Salonga continues. On the other hand, should she retain her office, this can only mean that telling the truth can become truly redemptive, he adds.

No one knows about redemption better than Salonga who turned 85 in June this year.

He had been "close to death a couple of times," he recounts. "I was imprisoned twice and almost killed by the Japanese when I went underground (during World War II). The second time was during the Plaza Miranda bombing (on Aug. 21, 1971), but I survived it despite the fact that I had been pronounced clinically dead."

### Advantage of age

The LP stalwart still has more than 100 tiny pieces of shrapnel in his body. "One eye is out, one ear can no longer hear. *Mahina ang aking pandinig dahil siguro maraming bagay na di ko na dapat mapakinggan. Iisa na lamang ang mata ko dahil siguro maraming bagay na di ko dapat makita* (I don't hear too good maybe because there are a lot of things I shouldn't hear. I only have one eye maybe because there are some things I should not see). So if you ask me how I lived this long, well, just by God's amazing grace."

Salonga, who retired from government service in 1992, urged fellow older persons to take advantage of age. "Look at the lives of many vigorous centenarians and seniors in public life. George Burns and Bob Hope in their nineties entertained millions of people. Grandma Moses was still painting at 100. Bertrand Russell was active at 94. George Bernard Shaw was writing at 91. When he was 96 and still playing his cello, Pablo Casals commented that age is a relative matter and that if you continue to work and absorb the beauty of the world around you, you find that age does not necessarily mean old."

Indeed, this octogenarian has kept busy despite his age. He chairs the editorial board of the fortnightly paper Living News & Good Education, which "aims to do what no publication of its kind has ever done—help raise the literacy level of high school students and teachers." Like his old pal Justice Sec. Sedfrey Ordonez, Salonga is also very much involved with independent groups Bantay ng Katarungan and Kilosbayan.

### Man of passion

"The Task of Building a Better Nation," Salonga's 11th book, was launched recently at the Lyceum's Jose P. Laurel Hall of Freedom. Praise for his previous works, like "The Intangibles that Make a Nation Great," continue to pour in. The late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin once remarked: "Only a man of passion could think of God and country first before self."

National Artist Nick Joaquin once described Salonga's writing style as "just, the language pellucid, the effect inspirational." Sen. Joker Arroyo, not known for being effusive, says of Salonga: "With the clarity of his writing, the weight of his erudition, the inexorability of his logic and the sweep of his rhetorical gifts, he explained the world around him and thereby changed it. He wrote history he made and vice versa."

Salonga attributes his long life to that old Spanish proverb, "*mala herba nunca muerte,*" that translates loosely to "only the good die young." Quips the old man: "*Siguro masamang damo tayo, baka damong kalabaw* (I'm probably a bad weed, carabao weed)." Humor, he says, is the one thing that gives him "a sense of balance."

Adds Salonga: "If you're to take that life begins at 80, I'm only 5 years old."

Just before his 85th birthday in June, the civil rights advocate and wife Lydia visited their ancestral home in Pulo, Pasig, along with their three children and five grandchildren here (two other children are in Hawaii and Rhode Island, USA). "We had lunch there with our nephews and their children, and in the evening, Lydia and I went to the lobby of a nearby hotel, where we had snacks and listened to some romantic songs. We were home before 10 p.m., listened to the latest news and then said our prayers. We thanked the good Lord for all the blessings we have received, and ask Him to give us strength to serve those who need our help."

### Biggest blessing

Easily the biggest blessing of recent days is his wife's remarkable recovery from the mild stroke she suffered in 2003. "She walks and jogs in our small warm spring pool in Pansol, Laguna," says Salonga. "She has regained her memory. She still remembers—and this is my joke when I am with close relatives and friends—that she has a good, faithful, loving husband. The good thing about her recovery is that my beloved wife is beginning to believe it," he says, laughing.

Given his continuing service to the country, people might wish that the grand old man would live forever, but Salonga himself eschews the idea: "It's like reading a good book or watching a good movie that never ends. Many people understand that the story of our lives must have a beginning, a middle and an end. But what people desperately want is to live long enough to get it right, to feel that they have done something worthwhile with their lives," he says.

That definitely is something that Salonga need not worry about.

* * *

## Araceli

...from page 3

notes. The threadbare *calado* in the *balikbayan* box is the worn-out overseas Filipino worker, looking more like discarded rags than "new heroes," as the government bills them. In another painting, "Felipe's Backyard," the allusion to martial law is seen in the faded graffiti *("Ibagsak si* Marcos!") painted on a fence. It was the farthest she could go in criticizing the Marcos administration that her husband Jose Dans, Jr. served as minister of Transportation and Communication. "He was a civil engineer and was the first to put up a light rail system and a cell site in the country," she says of him.

Lacework also figures prominently in Dans' personal history. Her mother, Regina Fernandez, she reveals, used to pound pineapple plants in her hometown in Kalibo to separate the plant fibers that would then be woven into piña cloth, the basic fabric for *calado*. This was then embroidered by hand and sewn into dresses, *panuelo* (shawls), and other typical women's wear at that time.

Her mother, says Dans, was the belle of the town. Her father, Tyrone Power-lookalike Eleuterio Limcaco, on the other hand, was quite wild in his youth and overheard plans to ship him off to Boys Town. He decided to stow away in a US marine vessel instead. When the ship docked in Capiz, her father saw and became enamored with the young Regina. "My grandfather caught him kissing my mom on the cheek, and chased him with a machete. And that's how my parents got married!" recounts Dans.

### Losing money on women

The relationship quickly floundered. Even in marriage, Dans' father retained his rakish ways, even once bringing home a crocodile and throwing it in the family pool and later, indulging in Arabian horses while taking up polo to meet rich clients for his insurance business. "We started out rich because my father was a mining engineer, but he lost all his money on women," says Dans. At 8, she

To page 7

Bum Celebrates!

Bum Equipment & Bum G!,winner of the Teen's Apparel of the Year and Finalist in the Best Fashion Retailer in the recently concluded 1st Annual Phil.Fashion Awards Celebrates!

Fresh from their triumph and in time for the Holiday Season,BUM showcases it's latest fashion collection. Brighten up your world Girl! with it's latest hues of colors and fashionable silhouette from BUM G! Dudes will surely be proud to wear BUM Equipment with its merry mix of urban,rock and hippie influences. Trendy caps& bags are perfect gifts this season plus our latest fragrances to match your style.

This page features some of it's latest tops and bottoms which is currently available at leading department stores nationwide.

Catch BUM Equipment's Holiday Fashion show at SM Malls on Dec. 4 - Sta. Mesa & 11 - Southmall at 5pm.

Danilo Barrios in a white round neck shirt with Bum Equipment special print at P329.75 & pants at P749.75.

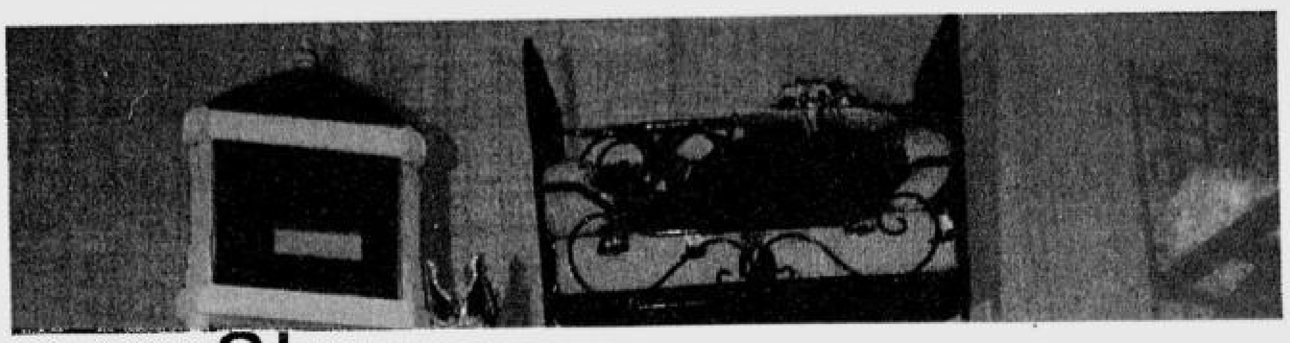
LJ Reyes wears a jacket in fandango pink & white shades at P499.95 inside is a cream blue spaghetti spandex tank top at P329.75 & white skirt stretch twill at P499.95.

Danilo Barrios in [illegible] wild rose shirt at P349.75 with LJ Reyes in [illegible] round neck with laminated print tops at P399.75 & blue green capri stretch pants at P649.75.

advt.

Pinoy Connection

*by Marlet D. Salazar*
*photographs by Jess Yuson*



# She Finds Strength in Samson, and Her Fashion Sense, Too, On All Fours

**Danish expat Pernille Harboe never knew that meeting a Yorkshire Terrier would change her life, or even plant the seed for a pet-centric business called Samson & Mom**

**“WHAT'S my CEO,” says Danish national Pernille Harboe, referring to the diminutive figure surveying the room. The chief executive officer turns out to be Samson, a 14-year-old Yorkshire Terrier who has been the center of Pernille's undivided attention since he came into her life.**

Her love for animals, especially dogs, led Pernille to put up a fashion house of pet clothes and accessories. Dogs are her constant household companions, and she used to pet-sit for friends, she says.

She's always had a connection with animals, reveals Pernille. When she was 4, her mother was stunned to discover her in their backyard holding a hairbrush and gently stroking a slithering figure. “The snake was talking to me,” Pernille laughs, “But I don't remember what it said.” Her mother called her very quietly so she wouldn't get up in a rush and startle the animal.

### Little black thing

When one of their dogs closest to her was run over by a car, Pernille's mother did what she could to console her. Her mother came back hours later, and shoved a little black thing to Pernille saying, “Will you please stop crying now?” Pernille recalls, “My mother realized how much I was missing my dog, but I just sat with the other dog with tears running down my cheeks. I just couldn't say anything.”

These days, pet lovers are just as speechless when they first see Pernille's fashion line for pets called Samson & Mom Inc., which was inspired by her tiny pooch's clothing needs. Not many stores carried a complete line of pet accessories when she opened her shop.

Travelling a lot with Samson, especially to Denmark to visit her family, made Pernille realize how the change of climate from tropical to cool could make her pooch severely uncomfortable. Forthwith, she started knitting sweaters and coats for Samson, and soon realized how she enjoyed it. She went a step further and started creating funky costumes for Samson, like capes and hats for holidays and other occasions. Soon, she also made him a dog house that she could pack and carry around during their travels.

“His own home away from home,” she describes it.

Samson & Mom first started selling pet collars in bazaars two years ago. Customers then started to look for other stuff, like dresses, sweaters, and leashes, which the shop now stocks. “I think we're the only pet fashion house where you basically can get everything,” says Pernille.

Although she still takes charge of conceptualizing and designing the goods, Pernille has hired several people to sew the clothes. Her business venture has expanded to include not only pet clothes and accessories, but also wheelchairs for paralyzed pets. The idea was inspired by Samson, who figured in a freak accident more than three years ago that left him paralyzed from the waist down. The dog lost his footing and fell off the balcony while struggling to reach a cat who had entered his territory.

Pernille didn't want him put to sleep or leave him depressed because of his condition. So she borrowed a wheelchair from the veterinarian while waiting for her order abroad. It cost her around P20,000.

It then occurred to her that other animals out there must be suffering the same fate, but that their owners couldn't afford a wheelchair. Why not sell the item for much less? “Putting the disabled animals in a wheelchair only proves that you do not have to put your pets to sleep just because they become *pilay* (crippled),” she says.

### Inspired by need

Soon after, Pernille developed a walker or a training device to help dogs go through therapy. “That way, they could train their muscles and walk normally again,” she adds. She cites the case of a German Shepherd whose owner has been working closely with the dog. The dog trained in a swimming pool and used the walker she created. “The dog is now back on four legs,” she reports. So far, Pernille has been able to provide wheelchairs for German Shepherds, boxers, and dachshunds.

While Samson's needs have inspired most of the items sold in her shop, Pernille says the designs of pet clothing are inspired by children's clothes. She also checks out fashion shows and magazines and keeps herself updated on the latest trends in Milan, Europe, and the United States. “I get the designs and colors that I can adapt,” says Pernille. Several items of Samson & Mom are now also sold abroad.

Pernille, who studied in Copenhagen, was an international beauty consultant of Max Factor and was once assigned to Japan and later, London. Until she got married and settled in Hong Kong, she often traveled to Europe. Her husband's work took them to the Philippines, where they stayed for years. She opted to stay even after her ex-husband went back to Denmark. “I like it here. I have my friends and my work.”

This animal lover does a lot of scuba-diving and goes to the gym “to keep me in form.” She is also a licensed pilot. “I've been flying,” she says.

Her adventurous streak is reflected in her pet clothing business which, most people might say, is hardly a priority in a developing country like the Philippines. Pernille acknowledges that. “I'm trying to make the clothes as affordable as possible,” she says. “I think it is important to have as many people understand that it is nice to have their pets get dressed. An *askal* (stray dog or a local breed) is as good as a purebred one, so why shouldn't it get all dressed up as well?”

### Pampering Samson

Pernille's passion for designing clothes goes beyond mere business venture. She believes that when people dress up their dogs, they also forge a closer connection with the animal. “I find that people who dress their dogs also try to understand their pets better,” she explains. “I think that is very important because a dog can give you a lot of things. The more you give the dog, the more the dog will give back to you.”

Pernille used to breed boxers “more out of interest than for profit,” and would walk them everyday for an hour in the morning and another hour in the afternoon. Now she hardly finds time to do that.

But she takes time to pamper Samson, whom she got from a breeder in Quezon City when he was still a few months old. “It's a big dog in a small package,” says Pernille, following Samson with her eyes and gently pulling him away when he got stuck under a table. “You know you'd get stuck there,” she scolds him quietly before explaining, “He has cataracts. He's turning 14 on Dec. 21.”

Pernille shows the same caring attitude in dressing up pets. She finds great joy in seeing the delight in their owners' eyes when they see their pets dressed up, as in that fashion show, Furry Tales, held for the benefit of PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center. Pernille designed the clothes in the show.

“Being able to help people have a better relationship with their dogs, for me, is already a big reward,” she says. Q

**Doggie couture: Christmas clothes for canines**

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## It's A Stretch

...from page 8

preparation a lot of fun. I like making *kutingting* (fussing over the small stuff). I don't get stressed out that easy, anyway. Well, there's good stress and bad stress. When it's work, it's good stress. It's the personal problems that are bad for you.”

To be sure, Cristina has had her share of personal ups and downs. Her childhood in San Juan was quite happy, shared with cousins from both sides of her family. Dad Jose Mari Gonzalez was the former matinee idol who ran his own recording studio, Cinema Audio, while mother Charito Malarky raised the five kids, of which Cristina is the eldest. A younger sister, Ana Margarita, also tried her hand at acting. “We grew up visiting the studio and looking to see which *artista* was there,” Cristina says. “That's why I really wanted to get into the movies.”

### Never believe

She began by way of a recording career, belting out songs reminiscent of the Go-Gos, dressed in the big hair and punk outfits of the '80s. Rumors that the Gonzalez girls had to work to help fund their father's unsuccessful political bids were “not true,” Cristina says. “That's all part of showbiz. That's why I never really believe what I read.”

In the '80s, Cristina was offered her first sexy movie with Jestoni Alarcon. “I had not been fortunate enough to get good roles,” she says candidly. “And the catch here was that, I had to do a kissing scene, a bed scene and a sexy scene.” As she had mentioned in a previous interview, Cristina was again lucky, in a manner of speaking, because her generation's idea of “bold” was a bikini—none of the breast baring and penetration that came in the '70s and would return with Rosanna Roces in the '90s. In between, she went into the RTW business, the buying and selling of real estate, and even learned to cut men's hair from David Charlton of David's Salon. “I used to cut my husband's hair,” she reveals.

Probably the worst thing she has had to endure, she recalls, was an annulment from a previous marriage. “He had been my boyfriend for a few months, and we decided to go to the States and get married. When I came back, I realized I had done something crazy. I guess I was panicking—I was in my thirties, and everyone around me was getting married. Good thing I wasn't married in church.”

When she met Alfred Romualdez, Cristina was single again and celebrating a birthday in a bar. They discovered they were neighbors, living a few floors away from each other in a Greenhills condominium. It was a whirlwind romance of sorts. “Fast *lang!*” Cristina says. “Within a couple of weeks, we knew it was us. I was attracted to him, first because he's cute,” she says with a laugh. “Maybe if he hadn't been, it would have taken a little longer.”

### Submit to the man

She says he is “very smart,” and is her adviser on everything from personal to business matters. And since she has also converted her husband to her faith, the erstwhile actress who used to wrap men around her finger now says she espouses a more traditional view of marriage. “Of course you have your own ideas, but he's the head of the household—and you must submit to him, because he's the man.”

They've both leveled with each other about their past, she says. Romualdez was not married, Cristina recounts, but has children from a previous relationship. The woman, however, who claims Romualdez married her in the United States, went public right before their 1998 wedding. “I think we both had to learn to let the past be and move on. Well, we've been together for almost 10 years now.”

What keeps the marriage working, she says, are shared passions, like travel and going out of town. Romualdez is now very much into his big BMW motorcycle, and Cristina rode behind him on a long drive to Baguio just a couple of weeks ago. “There were about 20 riders, and about eight of us wives were backriding. It was fun!”

If Cristina had her way, Alfred wouldn't return to politics. “I really enjoy the quiet life now,” she says. It may seem like quite a stretch, but hey, the woman made it happen. Q

# Araceli

...from page 5

tried her hand at drawing after seeing an uncle come up with sketches. Even when her mother scolded her for using the back of recipes for drawing Minnie and Mickey Mouse, the young girl was undaunted. Seeing this, her father enrolled Dans in an art workshop, where she was the only child in a class of adults.

When the war broke out and schools closed down, Dans attended the art classes offered by Anita Magsaysay-Ho at her home. At the same time, she used her talent to draw comic strips for the underground's propaganda material, which probably made her the youngest guerrilla on record. Once, while sketching a brochure, a Japanese *kempetai* searched their house and almost caught her red-handed. Thinking quickly, the plucky girl shoved her work under the ironing board cover.

The war also developed Dans' acting talent, which would later be showcased onstage. When the Japanese razed Malate where the Dans family had their home and a flower shop, the young artist played dead, hurling herself over seven dead bodies to avoid being bayoneted by the enemy.

Postwar, the former Maryknoll junior high school student continued her senior year at the Philippine Women's University along Taft Avenue, while also enrolling as a special student at the UP School of Fine Arts in nearby Padre Faura. UP school director Fernando Amorsolo immediately noted her potential and promoted her to a 4th year class. "He was very shy," she remembers of her professor. "You would meet him in the corridor and he would detour somewhere so he wouldn't have to greet you." But Amorsolo took kindly to her efforts to support her mother and two sisters and gave her portrait commissions, "mainly of dead people copied from photographs" that she was allowed to sign herself. Among her schoolmates at UP Fine Arts at that time were Napoleon Abueva, Larry Alcala, Juvenal Sanso and Celia Diaz Laurel.

Dans later had sculptor Guillermo Tolentino as her college professor, and therefore holds the rare distinction of being personally mentored by three contemporary Filipino masters: Amorsolo, Magsaysay-Ho and Tolentino. Add to such exposure the young Dans' natural curiosity and propensity for experimentation, and one can understand how she became proficient in oil, watercolor, charcoal and pastel drawing, caricature, book illustration, etching on copper plate, lithography, portraiture and bronze sculpture.

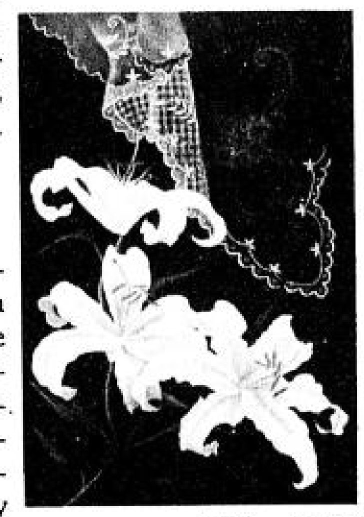
### 10 children

Art, says Dans is both outlet and therapy. In her case, it also proved to be emotional and financial succor, a lucrative hobby that saw her through 10 children born within 11 years. "We couldn't have a child for two years so we went for treatment," she reveals of her early years with Totoy Dans, her first campus sweetheart whom she later married. The problem, it turned out, was her retroverted uterus. When that was taken care of, the children started coming.

"I was the family driver," she says of her stint as one of Manila's first women drivers during her children's growing-up years. "Because they were so many, I would bathe them using the garden hose. When it was raining and they all had to stay home, I had to think quickly of what they could do, *kasi mag-aaway-away yan* (they'd get so bored, they'd turn on each other)." Being the natural art teacher, she would get out this huge box filled with crayons, bottle caps, corrugated cardboard, cork, glue and popsicle sticks. "I'd tell them, okey, invent your own monster and describe it. Sometimes, it was 'Tell your own story.' I raised them to become creative and independent."

### Three great grandchildren

Indeed, all the Dans children turned out well: seven of them are teaching, one (Butch Dans) became a talent manager for local entertainment acts, and two became artists and book illustrators. "I really enjoyed my children," Dans declares. "I never looked at them as a burden. Now, I'm enjoying my 29 grandchildren as well, and my three great grandchildren."



*"Puting Bituin," 2004*

But then again, Dans seems to have a natural affinity with children. She used to teach art at the Ateneo and was tasked "to put some balance in the regimented education of the Jesuits." Aside from hefty tuition discounts for her four sons, she found the biggest reward in seeing restless boys get energized after their weekly dose of art classes. Art, she says, "ennobles and sublimates the senses."

Using television to reach out to a bigger audience, Dans also taught art via "I Like Art" and "Adventures in Art," beamed to 25 private schools through Ateneo Educational Television. "This was before 'Sesame Street,'" she recounts. "Nestor U. Torre directed the show, which integrated Pilipino, Social Studies and Math. I did the sets, my own script and the puppets." The show won the Citizens Award for Television for two consecutive years.

### Stage appearance

Dans and Torre used to be colleagues in theater, he in the role of Fagin and she as Nancy in the musical "Oliver Twist." Just recently, she and Torre again shared stage billing, this time in Ryan Cayabyab's musical "Birhen ng Caysasay," where Dans sang and acted, and Torre directed. "Well, they needed a *lola* (grandmother) for the play and I was available," she says of her stage appearance. "I used to sing in my youth, but before I accepted this role, I went to opera singer Fides Cuyugan Asensio to make sure I don't sound like a pig being slaughtered," she says with a laugh.

These days when Dans isn't trundling off her grandchildren to museums, art galleries and Repertory plays, she's off to various art workshops and out-of-town painting excursions with her latest batch of young colleagues. They include art and acrylic artist Aladin Antiqueño, watercolorist Ignacio, sculptor Tito Sanchez, Paete sculptor Angelo Baldemor, FEATI Fine Arts department chair and painter Janice Young, Mayoya and Pazcoguin.

The group, says Dans, has been conducting free art workshops for two years now. The workshops are open to all and include free art materials. It is one way of giving back, she adds. Another is through her book, which is being published by Equitable-PCI Bank. Profits from the book will go to a trust fund to support faculty development and research at the UP College of Fine Arts and other schools that offer art courses.

"All human beings are artists," says Dans. "There's a certain amount of artistry in us and as a teacher, I can only help evoke it and guide people in setting their spirit free." Q

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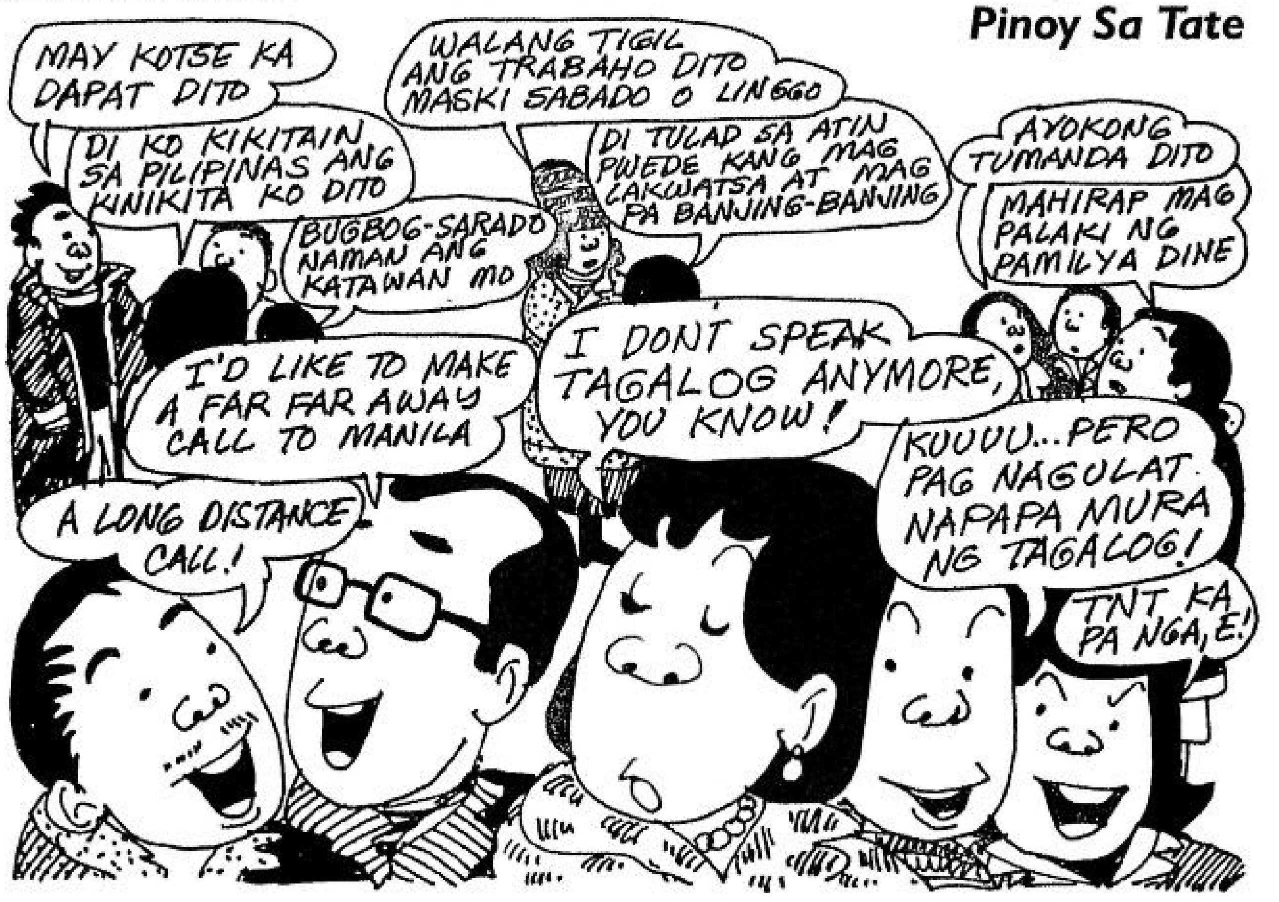
*Copies of "Araceli Limcaco Dans" are available through Galerie Y at the 4th level of Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. For inquiries, please call Galerie Y at tel. nos. 634-2704 or 633-5235.*

## Pinoy Nga!

Jess Abrera



**Pinoy Sa Tate**

MAY KOTSE KA DAPAT DITO
DI KO KIKITAIN SA PILIPINAS ANG KINIKITA KO DITO
WALANG TIGIL ANG TRABAHO DITO MASKI SABADO O LINGGO
BUGBOG-SARADO NAMAN ANG KATAWAN MO
DI TULAD SA ATIN PWEDE KANG MAG LAKWATSA AT MAG PA BANJING-BANJING
AYOKONG TUMANDA DITO
MAHIRAP MAG PALAKI NG PAMILYA DINE
I'D LIKE TO MAKE A FAR FAR AWAY CALL TO MANILA
I DONT SPEAK TAGALOG ANYMORE, YOU KNOW!
A LONG DISTANCE CALL!
KUUUU...PERO PAG NAGULAT NAPAPA MURA NG TAGALOG!
TNT KA PA NGA, E!

MOTOROLA

Motorola makes a Fashion Declaration.

Motorola, world leader in design and innovation, took to the fashion stage last October 25. RAZR Sharp Vision: Fashion Declaration was a glorious night of flair, fashion and imagination. Featuring the avant-garde collections of five, young, talented designers, Motorola effortlessly engaged audiences at the NBC Tent at the Fort.

The five designers tapped to showcase their hippest and hottest couture were Ivarluski Aseron, Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, James Reyes, Ignacio Loyola, and Joey Samson. The fab five did not disappoint, as the gorgeous models paraded down the runway in what could only be termed as "heart-stopping" fashion.

The spectacular evening was heightened with the emergence of 2 stunning Motorola fashion handsets. The sleek and thin Moto RAZR and the smooth and round Moto PEBL shined brightly in the hands of dazzling models that glided gracefully amongst the audience.

RAZR Sharp Vision: Fashion Declaration was a vibrant anthology of fashion innovation and iconic handset design. A true testament to the Motorola vibe of being cutting-edge and attuned to the senses, the thrilling evening was nothing short of breathtaking.

DESIGNER TIPPI OCAMPO
TESSA PRIETO VALDEZ
MTV'S ROD NEPUMOCENO AND MOTOROLA'S MARI LITONJUA
DESIGNER JOEY SAMSON
MAIKE EVERS AND CESCA LITTON
RONNIE SALVACION
MAURICE ARCACHE AND FRIENDS
SANDY PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
DESIGNER IGNACIO LOYOLA
APPLES ABERIN
HOSTS FOR THE EVENING TIM YAP AND JENNI EPPERSON
BIANCA VALERIO
DESIGNER ANTHONY NOCOM
GEORGINA WILSON
MOTOROLA COUNTRY MANAGER PATRICK ARONSON AND HA ARONSON
MOTOENDORSER JAMES REYES
DESIGNER GIAN ROMANO AND COMPANIONS
PHOEMELA BARRANDA, NICOLETTE BELL AND RISSA MANANQUIL-SAMSON
DESIGNER YVONNE QUISUMBING ROMULO
MONS ROMULO TANTOCO
JM RODRIGUEZ
DESIGNER IVARLUSKI ASERON

*by Alya B. Honasan*

**Cristina Gonzalez, the movie star who did much of her acting in the bedroom, is now right at home in the kitchen, thanks to a quiet family life and a business that has her playing the consummate hostess**

# It's A Stretch From *Screen Siren* to Domestic *Goddess,* But Hey, She Made It Happen

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

**WHO would have thought ? Few actresses who went the bold route have been so lucky: She left the business in one piece, hurdled personal crises, found herself a guy who can take care of her, now lives very comfortably, and even has the motivation to start her own business.**

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez credits God, and being a Born-Again Christian, for the positive changes, though she's not in denial about her colorful past. "I did a lot of things that were not good. I was crazy! That's why I don't want my daughters to make the same mistakes."

Cristina, still known to friends as "Kring-Kring," the name she took when she began a recording career in the '80s, has made the successful transition from screen to domestic goddess—quite a stretch, some people believe, but she certainly looks happy. She's still svelte and even more fresh-faced sans the smoky eyes of her celluloid heyday. "I'm a mom now, how can I be *pa-sexy pa?*" she says.

### Old world charm

As the lady behind Patio Victoria, the Intramuros property that she has transformed into a wedding venue and restaurant with built-in old world charm, Cristina is swinging into her busiest time of the year, taking care of two to three weddings in a single day. That means handling everything from reception and wedding gown to souvenirs, reception and all the trimmings. She specializes, she says, in weddings "for any budget. You can have a nice reception for 100 people for P100,000."

There have been no major booboos at work, but quite a few emergencies. "Like when they book for 200 people, and 300 people show up. That's really stressful! The kitchen has to work double time, and you have to have a back-up for everything. That's why I know how to cook everything in the kitchen, too. I can make a *paella* or pasta with my eyes closed. You have to know, in case this happens or all the cooks leave!"

She's learned to play the role of party hostess to the hilt since her 1998 marriage to former Leyte Congressman Alfred Romualdez. The couple has two daughters, Sofia, 6, and Diana, 2. As a politician's wife, she used her showbiz background to her advantage. "Even in this business, being well-known helps in the marketing," she says. "But you do have to keep smiling even when you don't feel like it, because you're courting votes, which is not the case in the movies." Although her husband never pressured her, she took cooking lessons under Beth Romualdez, and even enrolled in baking courses in San Francisco to prepare for her biggest role.

### In a snap

Today, Cristina swears she can put together big parties in a snap. "*Kaya ko* (I can do it), given the right staff. I know all about menus and table settings. That's why I decided to get into this kind of business." Cristina already had a big hand in planning her "fabulous" wedding in Tacloban, and later began working from her house to coordinate such affairs before making Patio Victoria her base.

Now, she spends half of the month in Manila and half in her husband's bailiwick, and is also thinking of putting up an even more affordable party planning outfit for birthdays and baptismals, called Party Camp. "I find all the planning and

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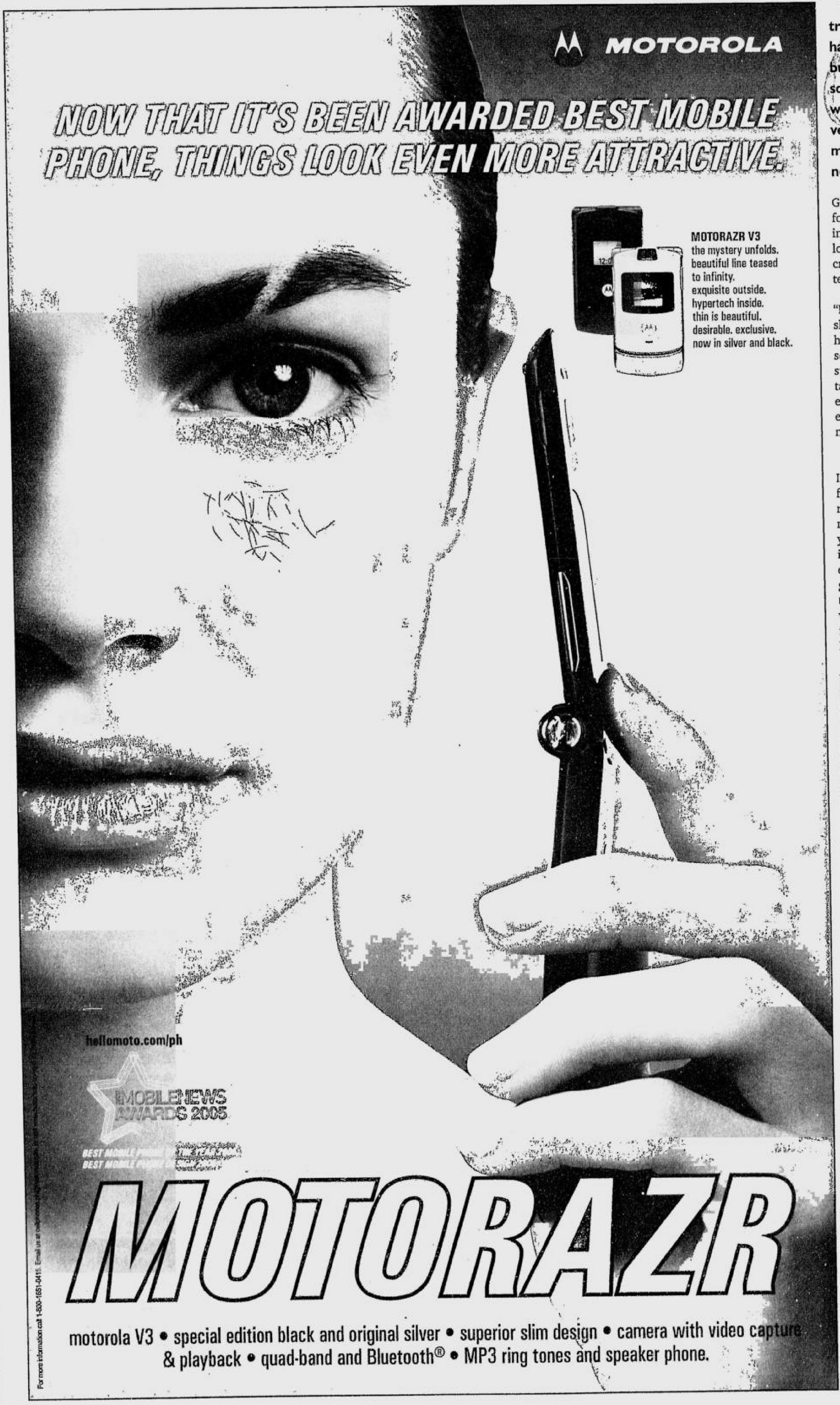
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